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Iranian newspaper denies report that Iran bought nuclear weapons

TEHRAN (AP) — An Iranian newspaper on Tuesday denied reports that Iran had purchased nuclear weapons from Russia.

An Israeli newspaper, the Jerusalem Post, said last week that Iran paid \$25 million for nuclear warheads smuggled out of the former Soviet Union in the early 1990s.

The government-controlled Iran News said the reports were an Israeli attempt to stir up anti-Iranian sentiment.

"With such anti-Iran propaganda, Tel Aviv attempts to form an anti-Iranian coalition in the Middle East, thereby overshadowing its own lack of cooperation with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA)," the newspaper said.

Israel is widely believed to possess nuclear weapons and has not allowed the IAEA, the U.N. nuclear watchdog, to inspect its facilities.

Iran News also accused Israel of trying to foil Iran's nuclear research programme which, it said, was being developed for non-military purposes.

The Jerusalem Post said its reports were based on Iranian government documents.

Reacting to the reports, the U.S. Defence Department said it had "no evidence whatsoever" that Iran had acquired nuclear weapons and the Israeli foreign ministry said it had no comment.

Iran has denied any ambition to acquire a nuclear bomb. The Vienna-based IAEA says it has found no evidence that Iran is engaged in covert nuclear activity.

Russia is building Iran's first nuclear reactor, near the southern port of Bushehr.

Water shortage in Israel's Negev desert after pipeline sabotaged

DIMONA (AFP) — Sahoteurs damaged the main pipeline taking water to the Negev desert region of southern Israel early Tuesday, leaving towns in the area short of drinking water, officials said.

"The main water supply line was sabotaged during the night and the flow of water into the towns is extremely low," Adva Loid, a spokeswoman for the local government council, told AFP.

A police spokesman said unknown individuals used tractors to damage part of the main pipeline leading to the Negev, spilling tens of thousands of cubic meters of water into the desert.

He said investigators were looking into the possibility the sabotage was carried out by bedouin Arabs who make up a large part of the population in the northern Negev and complain of discrimination by Israeli authorities.

Virtually all communities in the region, including Dimona — site of Israel's top secret nuclear installation — and Mitzpe Ramon were running short of water, officials said.

The regional council ordered a halt to agricultural irrigation in the region until the pipelines can be repaired.

The incident coincided with a heat wave which took the temperature in the Negev to 40 degrees Centigrade on Tuesday.

Turkish prosecutors demand five-year sentence for activist

DIYARBAKIR (AP) — Prosecutors have demanded a five-year prison term for an Italian peace activist arrested during a pro-Kurdish festival last month, reports said Tuesday.

The indictment by a regional prosecutor's office said Dino Frisullo had demonstrated in favour of the Kurdish rebel group PKK and accused him of inciting hatred based on ethnic differences, the pro-Kurdish newspaper Gundem reported.

Frisullo was arrested on March 21 during celebrations broken up by the police here, the main city in the Kurdish-dominated southeast.

Police said he was carrying documents belonging to the PKK which is banned in Turkey and shouted slogans in praise of the group.

His arrest created a diplomatic rift with Italy, which submitted a formal protest.

Nearly 37,000 people have died since 1984 in the war with the rebels, who seek autonomy.

Number of malnourished children in Sudan increasing — WFP

NAIROBI (AFP) — Increasing numbers of malnourished children are appearing in southern Sudanese feeding centres, the U.N. World Food Programme (WFP) said Tuesday, warning that it was short of aircraft to supply food.

Aid agencies estimate that some 350,000 people are threatened by famine in southern Sudan, where rebels of the Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA) have been fighting government troops since 1983.

In Bahr Al Ghazal state, where the government recently lifted a ban on aid flights imposed in early February, aid workers at the Thiek Thou-centre are feeding 1,400 malnourished children, 500 of whom are in serious condition, WFP spokeswoman Brenda Barton told AFP.

At the Pan Thou centre in the same state, she said, there were 387 malnourished children last Friday, 670 by Monday.

Mr. Barton said the WFP was able to supply only half-rations, using road transport and eight aircraft.

She said the agency needed one or two more C-130 aircraft to supplement its fleet to deliver food before the onset of the rains next month.



PALESTINIAN CHILDREN PLACE FLOWERS AT DEIR YASSIN MEMORIAL: Palestinian children place flowers on a fence Tuesday during a memorial ceremony held to mark the 50th anniversary of the massacres of Palestinians at the hands of Jewish fighters in what was in 1948 the village of Deir Yassin (Reuters photo)

14 pilgrims wounded in Hajj stampede still in Mecca hospitals

RIYADH (AFP) — Fourteen wounded Muslims from the stampede which killed more than 118 pilgrims and injured 180 others near Mecca last week are still in hospital, a Saudi health ministry official said Tuesday.

"There are only 14 wounded left" in the hospitals of Mecca, western Saudi Arabia, Abdelilah Saati told the newspaper Al Jazira.

He said those left in hospital since last Thursday's tragedy were three Indians, two Pakistanis, an Afghan, an Indonesian, a Saudi, a Libyan, an Algerian, an Egyptian, a South African, a Syrian and a Moroccan.

The stampede occurred during a ceremony in Mina known as the "Stoning of Satan," in which pilgrims hurl pebbles at pillars representing the devil.

An estimated 700,000 pilgrims had jammed onto an overpass to throw stones at three pillars representing the devil, one of the final Hajj rituals, just before the stampede began.

Among the dead were 24 Indians, nine Turks, nine Pakistanis, seven Algerians, five Saudis, three Bangladeshis, four Moroccans, two Indonesians, two Egyptians and a Kuwaiti.

Identification has been taking time because many of the victims were not wearing identification bracelets.

Mandela expresses condolences to families of Hajj victims

AMMAN (J.T.) — South African President Nelson Mandela, in a statement issued on behalf of his office by the Department of Foreign Affairs in Pretoria, Tuesday expressed his "sincere condolences to the government and people of Saudi Arabia and the Muslims of the world for the tragedy that occurred in Mina during the Hajj."

The statement, which was sent to the Jordan Times by the South African embassy in Amman, continued: "Having had one death and a few injuries amongst the South African pilgrims, we share the profound grief and sorrow with the families from other parts of the world who have lost their loved ones during the tragic incident."

"I wish to convey my deepest sympathies to the bereaved families and pray that Almighty God gives them strength and courage to bear the great loss."

"We also pray for the speedy recovery and good health to those who were injured during the incident."

Syrian Orthodox patriarch visits Baghdad

BAGHDAD (AFP) — The patriarch of the Syrian Orthodox church, Mar Ignatius Zakka Iwas, arrived in Baghdad on his first visit to Iraq in 16 years, the official news agency INA reported Tuesday.

As part of a month-long tour, His Holiness Mar Ignatius has already been to the northern city of Mosul, his birthplace. He travelled to Baghdad by road on Monday and was to stay two weeks.

The visit — the patriarch's first to Iraq since 1982 — has been made possible by the reopening of the Syrian-Iraqi border last year.

His Holiness Mar Ignatius himself served as bishop of Mosul from 1963 to 1969 and as bishop of Baghdad from 1969 until his election as patriarch in 1980.

Syria has allowed Iraqi clergymen of the Syrian Orthodox church to travel to the patriarchate in Damascus although its relations with Baghdad have been cut since 1980.

But they have had to travel via Amman, which was considered too long a journey for the patriarch to make, according to church officials.

Iraq has a Christian community of around 750,000, centred in Mosul and the north, and in the capital.

The area of northern Iraq around Mosul is a stronghold of eastern Christianity with many rural Christians still speaking Syriac, the modest descendant of Aramaic, the language of Christ, as their first language.

Crown Prince, Princess Sarvath return to Amman

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Royal sign

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NEWS IN BRIEF

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Iraq's second city struggles to save landmark leaning tower from collapse

By Steve Kirby
Agence France Presse

MOSUL — A leaning tower that has dominated the skyline of Iraq's second city for even longer than its more famous counterpart in the Italian city of Pisa is in danger of falling down, geologists say.

The Leaning Minaret of the Great Mosque in this city 350 kilometres north of Baghdad was completed in 1172 A.D., two years before work started on the bell tower of Pisa Cathedral.

Over the centuries its two-metre lean has become such a familiar landmark that Iraqis sometimes refer to the country's northern capital as Al Hadba, the Arabic for hunchback.

But despite an expensive two-year restoration project less than 20 years ago, the soil is still moving beneath the minaret and large cracks now riddle its base.

"It's in danger of collapsing altogether if the soil beneath is not grouted," said geologist Issam Abdul Fatah, who has been surveying the extent of the problem for Mosul region's directorate of antiquities.

"Six metres beneath the ground, the soil around the minaret's foundations has moved by about a centimetre."

"That represents a displacement of more than three centimetres at ground level," he said pushing his fingers into one of the fissures to prove the point.

"The soil movement has cracked the new foundations put up in 1980 — the metal rods they used to strengthen the base have simply snapped."

Mr. Abdul Fatah heads a team of surveyors from the geotechnical survey office of the state-owned Euphrates Company.

The team normally works on irrigation projects for the ministry of agriculture and is taking time out from the Baddush dam project on the Tigris River near the city to carry out the work.

The Iraqi geologist is full of praise for the unknown twelfth-century architect whose handiwork he has been surveying for the last month.

At 56 metres, the Leaning Minaret is the highest in Iraq according to the Tourism Board guidebook "Religious Sites in Iraq," one of the few published by Baghdad since the 1991 Gulf war.

Built for the Zengid emir of Mosul, Nureddin Al Atabak, over just two years between 1170 and 1172 A.D., the minaret was actually built with a deliberate lean.

"It was built leaning towards the east," said Mr. Abdul Fatah.

"That man was brilliant — all the wind coming into Mosul comes from the northwest. All those years ago he actually measured that fact and designed his building accordingly."

"It is the main reason why this minaret has survived so long when other minarets in the city have collapsed."

His colleague Imad Maalullah Khalil is amazed by the design of the stairs giving access to the minaret's roof.

"There are two separate staircases — they go up in the same direction and yet they do not meet at any point and, as you go up one staircase, you cannot hear any noise from the other."

But both are rather less complimentary about the handiwork of the Italian firm which carried out restoration work at the minaret between 1979 and 1981.

"They were paid a great deal of money and yet they did virtually nothing beneath the ground," Mr. Abdul Fatah said. "Everything was cosmetic and above the ground, and as a result it's lasted less than 20 years."

He said that all the Italian firm had done beneath the ground was to inject 40 tonnes of concrete grouting.

But from the evidence of the survey boreholes their team had dug, he said such an injection of concrete was no solution at all.

The first 25-metre borehole identified a cave more than seven metres deep just seven metres below the surface, the second a two-metre cavity six metres down, and the third a 2.8-metre cavity four and a half metres down.

"You would have to pump a million tonnes of concrete into the cavities to have any hope of filling them and that's just not practical," he said.

"The best solution would be to insert two concentric rings of piles around the base of the minaret to contain the grouting."

"But of course that costs money, more money perhaps than Iraq can spare given all the problems we face as a result of U.N. sanctions."

Abdul Fatah's own survey work, hampered as it is by the long power cuts and shortages of spare parts resulting from the sanctions imposed for Iraq's 1990 invasion of Kuwait, costs just 1.75 million Iraqi dinars (less than \$120,000).

But he remains philosophical about the chances of actually saving the minaret. "In the end, everything is in the hands of our God, Allah," he said.

JORDAN TELEVISION

PROGRAMME TWO
16:10 Mr. Bogus Show
16:30 French Programmes
18:00 Oliver Twist
18:30 Drama — Neighbours
19:00 Le Journal
19:15 Science Magazine — E-M6
19:30 News headlines
19:35 Comedy — Campus Cops
20:00 Doc. — The Health Show
20:30 Doc. — The Last Neanderthal
21:10 Drama — Kung Fu
22:00 News in English
22:30 Mini-series: "Maria Chapdelaine"
23:59 Country Music
00:30 End of T.X.

PRAYER TIMES

04:42 Fajr
06:03 Sunrise
12:36 Dhuhr
16:12 Asr
19:08 Maghreb
20:29 Isha

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church
Sweifeh, Tel. 5920740
Assemblies of God Church Tel. 4632785
St. Joseph Church Tel. 4624590
Terra Sancta Church Tel. 4622366
Anglican Church Tel. 4624853/4634811.

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

St. Aftan Syrian Orthodox Church Tel. 771751. Amman International Church Tel. 365897. German-speaking Evangelical Congregation Tel. 5688404. The Evangelical Local Church in Amman Tel. 811295. Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints Tel. 4654932. St. John the Baptist at De la Salle College Tel. 5661757. Church of the Annunciation Tel. 4637440. Greek Orthodox Church Tel. 4646138. Church of Presentation, Sweifeh Tel. 5920146. The United Catholic Church Tel. 4624757. The English-Language Catholic Parish Tel. 4614190. Evangelical Free Church Tel. 892679. The Baptist Church Tel. 4628052. The Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331.		St. Yusef Rashid 875792. Dr. Jum'a Abu Dhiab 788848. Dr. Khalil Jbali 784450. Dr. Walid Al Masri 5675485. Firas pharmacy 5661912. Ferdows pharmacy 890280. Al Asma pharmacy 4637055. Al Salam pharmacy 4636730. Yacoub pharmacy 4623672. Shmeisani pharmacy 4637660. Nairokh pharmacy 4623672. Najih pharmacy 847632. IRBID: Dr. Mazen Abu Bakir 276852. Al Quds pharmacy (—). ZARQA: Dr. Walid Halaseh 982799. Khalifeh pharmacy 985417.		USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS NIGHT DUTY Food Control Centre 4637111. Civil Defence Department 5661111. Civil Defence Immediate Rescue 4630341. Civil Defence Emergency 199. Rescue Police 192, 4621111, 4637777. Fire Brigade 4617101. Blood Bank 775121. Highway Police 843402. Traffic Police 896390. Public Security Dept. 4630321. Hotel Complaints 5650800. Price Complaints 5661176. Water & Sewage Complaints 897467. Amman Municipality Complaints 787111. Telephone Information (directory assistance) 121. Overseas Calls 010230. Central Amman Telephone Repairs 4623101. Abdali Tel. Repairs 5661101. Jordan Television 773111. Radio Jordan 774111. Water Authority 5680100. J. Electricity Authority 315615. Electric Power Co. 4636381. RJ Flight Information 44-53200. Queen Alia Int. Airport 44-53200.		EMERGENCIES The Islamic, Abdli 566613/7. Husseini Medical Centre Tel. 836813, 856856. Luzmila 4630195. Khalidi Maternity 464281/6. Akileh Maternity 464244/2. Jabal Amman Maternity 4642362. Malhas, J. Amman 4636140. Palestine, Shmeisani 5607071. Shmeisani Hospital 5669131. University Hospital 845845. Al-Muasher Hospital 5667279. Al-Ahli, Abdali 5664164/6. Italian, Al-Muhajreen 777101/3. Al-Bashir 775111/26. Army, Marka 891611/15. Queen Alia Hospital 5602240/50. Amal Hospital 5674155. ZARQA: Zarqa Govt. Hospital (09)983323. Zarqa National Hospital (09)900560. Ibn Sina Hospital (09)986732. Al Hikma Modern Hospital (09)990999. IRBID: Princess Basma Hospital (02)275555. Greek Catholic Hospital (02)272275. Ibn Al Nafees Hospital (02)247100. AQABA: Princess Haya Hospital (03)314111.		FOR THE TRAVELLER QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Queen Alia International Airport. Tel. (44)53200 where it should always be verified. Information on other flights are supplied on phone 44 (52700) or 44(53250). ARRIVALS Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights 07:30 Damascus (RJ) 07:30 Jeddah (add) (RJ) 09:00 Jeddah (RJ) 09:50 Dubai, Abu Dhabi (RJ) 10:05 Jeddah (add) (RJ) 12:00 Larnaca (RJ) 14:00 Paris (add) (RJ) 15:30 Jeddah (add) (RJ) 15:35 New York, Amsterdam (RJ) 17:25 London (RJ) 17:40 Frankfurt (RJ) 18:00 Paris (RJ) 18:45 Brussels, Vienna (RJ) 18:50 Istanbul (RJ) 19:15 Tel Aviv (add) (RJ) 19:20 Madrid, Geneva (RJ) 19:55 Rome (RJ) 00:15 Beirut (RJ) 02:50 Cairo (RJ) Other Flights 10:30 Cairo (MS) 11:00 Sanaa, Hudaidah (TY) 11:30 Kuwait (KU) 12:30 Jeddah (SV) 14:10 Tunis (TU) 14:10 Bahrain (GF) 15:05 Vienna (OS) 16:30 Algiers (AH) 18:35 Karachi, Abu Dhabi (PK) 19:05 Frankfurt (LH) 21:10 Beirut (ME) 23:20 Istanbul (TK) 23:20 Amsterdam (KL) 23:45 Athens, Beirut (OA) 00:15 London (BA) Royal Wings (RW) 08:45 Agaba (RW) 10:05 Amman (QAIA) (RW) 10:50 Amman (Marka Airport) (RW) 18:20 Tel Aviv (RW) 19:30 Amman (QAIA) (RW) 22:20 Agaba (RW) 23:50 Amman (Marka Airport) (RW) DEPARTURES 05:15 Jeddah (add) (RJ) 08:50 Amsterdam, New York (RJ) 09:00 Larnaca (RJ) 10:00 Jeddah (add) (RJ) 11:00 Rome (RJ) 11:45 Berlin, London (RJ) 13:30 Istanbul (RJ) 17:20 Tel Aviv (RJ)		20:10 Colombo (RJ) 20:35 Beirut (RJ) 21:00 New Delhi (RJ) 21:10 Riyadh, Dhahran (RJ) 21:20 Bombay (RJ) 21:25 Calcutta, Bangkok (RJ) 21:25 Bahrain, Doha (RJ) 22:15 Dubai, Muscat (RJ) 23:00 Cairo (RJ) 23:40 Sanaa (RJ) 04:00 Jeddah (RJ) Other Flights 06:35 Larnaca (CY) 07:30 Paris (AF) 08:45 Beirut (ME) 09:20 London (BA) 11:30 Cairo (MS) 11:30 Ta'iz, Sanaa (TY) 12:45 Kuwait (KU) 14:00 Jeddah (SV) 15:00 Bahrain, Muscat (GF) 15:10 Tunis (TU) 15:30 Vienna (OS) 17:20 Sharjah (AH) 20:30 Abu Dhabi, Karachi (PK) 00:40 Damascus, Amman (KU) 04:00 Beirut, Athens (OA) Royal Wings (RW) 07:45 Amman (Marka Airport) (RW) 09:15 Agaba (RW) 10:30 Amman (QAIA) (RW) 17:45 Amman (Marka Airport) (RW) 18:55 Tel Aviv (RW) 21:30 Amman (QAIA) (RW) 22:50 Agaba (RW)		what's going on FILMS "Spanish children's film" at a Institute Cinema, Amman on Tuesday, April 16, at 5:00 p.m. "The Last Days of Pompeii" at the American Cinema on Thursday, April 16, at 5:00 p.m. LECTURES "The Arabic Epigraphic Tradition" by Dr. Ibrahim al-Faruqi at the Institute of Islamic Studies, Amman on Tuesday, April 16, at 5:00 p.m. EXHIBITION "Paintings of the Arab World" at the Jordanian Cultural Centre, Amman on Tuesday, April 16, at 5:00 p.m. THEATRE "The Miracle" by the Jordanian Theatre Company at the Jordanian Cultural Centre, Amman on Tuesday, April 16, at 5:00 p.m. CONCERTS "The Arabic Epigraphic Tradition" by Dr. Ibrahim al-Faruqi at the Institute of Islamic Studies, Amman on Tuesday, April 16, at 5:00 p.m.	
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Crown Prince, Princess Sarvath return to Amman

AMMAN (J.T.) — Their Royal Highnesses Crown Prince Hassan and Princess Sarvath returned to Amman Tuesday after visits to Germany, the United Kingdom and the U.S., followed by a private visit to Europe.

They were met at the airport by His Majesty King Hussein and members of the Royal family, as well as senior government officials.

The Prince and Princess were accompanied by Their Royal Highnesses Princess Rahmah and Princess Badia.

While in London, Prince Hassan opened the Jordanian Badia Week, and in Bonn he met German Chancellor Helmut Kohl to discuss Middle East developments and Jordanian-German economic relations.

In New York, Prince Hassan met ambassadors to the U.N. from Arab and Islamic countries and discussed efforts to overcome obstacles facing the peace process. The Crown Prince called for coordination in efforts by Arab and Islamic countries to serve national causes.



Royal Jordanian CEO and President Nader Dahabi and Omani Airways Director General Clive Raymond sign one of four cooperation agreements (Petra photo)

Royal Jordanian, Omani Airways sign cooperation agreements

AMMAN (Petra) — Royal Jordanian (RJ), the country's air carrier, and Omani Airways have concluded four agreements on technical cooperation, air operations, in-flight services and personnel training on aircraft maintenance.

The four agreements were signed by RJ CEO and President Nader Dahabi and Omani Airways Director General Clive Raymond.

At a press conference after the signing ceremony, Mr. Dahabi said the agreements

are designed to bolster bilateral cooperation and enable Omani Airways to benefit from RJ's experience in training and aircraft maintenance.

An Omani delegation visited Jordan in order to examine RJ's facilities, including the technical and maintenance workshop and the flight simulator to train pilots, and is touring the various departments to be briefed on their work, according to Mr. Dahabi.

RJ has also prepared a programme for the Omani delegation to visit the Kingdom's

tourist and archaeological sites and meet senior officials in the Civil Aviation Authority and the transport sector, he stated.

The two national airlines will exchange expertise and information as well as cooperate in promoting flight services, he said.

For his part, Mr. Raymond expressed Omani Airways' appreciation for Jordan's cooperation and for opening the door to an exchange of expertise to help promote the airline's performance.

Jordan to help Iraqi girl receive leukaemia treatment in U.K.

AMMAN (Agencies) — Britain has approached the office of HRH Crown Prince Hassan to provide logistic support to enable a four-year-old Iraqi girl to be flown to the U.K. for hospital treatment, according to the Jordan News Agency, Petra.

According to the report, Maria Hamza will be flown aboard a Royal Wings aircraft Wednesday from Baghdad to Amman, where she will continue the trip to London.

Meanwhile, the British government Tuesday welcomed the granting of an exemption to U.N. sanctions to allow the girl to get urgent hospital treatment in Britain. "I am delighted we have been able to secure approval from the U.N. Sanctions Committee for the flight, which will bring Maria Hamza out of Iraq to the U.K. for urgently needed medical treatment," Minister of State at the Foreign Office

Derek Fatchen said in a statement.

Leukaemia sufferer Maria is expected to arrive with her grandmother later this week at a children's hospital in Glasgow, Scotland, the statement said.

She could leave Iraq on Wednesday and arrive in Britain on Thursday or Friday.

The U.N. made the exception after pressure from British MP George Galloway, a member of the ruling Labour party, who has

been campaigning for several weeks on Maria's behalf and visited Iraq last week.

Mr. Galloway has consistently championed the lifting of U.N. air, oil and trade sanctions imposed on Iraq after its 1990 invasion of Kuwait, and denounced the effects of the embargo on Iraqi children.

A large number of leukaemia cases have been registered in Iraq since the Gulf war in 1990-1991.

Vice squad seizes over 27 kg of drugs

AMMAN (Petra) — The Anti-Narcotics Department (AND) Tuesday announced the seizure of a variety of drugs and the arrest of a number of people attempting to sell them between February 25 and April 14.

AND Director Nazih Shreideh said department personnel seized 4.5 kilograms of heroin, 22 kilograms of hashish, half a kilogramme of marijuana, and 500 marijuana plants during that period.

The drugs were seized in 48 operations, in which 76 people from Jordan and other Arab and foreign countries were involved, Col. Shreideh said.

Over the same period, the department dealt with 24 other cases in which 49 suspects were involved in using drugs. Department agents also solved 14 cases of forgery in which 27 suspects were arrested and referred to the judicial authorities, he added.

The AND dealt with three cases involving eight suspects who were attempting to smuggle artefacts including statues, ancient coins and pottery, he said.

The department dealt with 12 cases involving counterfeit currency, seizing forged money worth \$14,000, JDS 370, 5,500 Saudi riyals and 3,500 United Arab Emirates dirhams, he stated.

Col. Shreideh said AND personnel were intensifying their efforts to prevent drug traffickers from using Jordanian territory as a transit point to smuggle drugs and at the same time to deal with drug pushers operating in Jordan.

Mu'ta University opens conference examining environmental problems

KARAK (Petra) — Mu'ta University on Tuesday opened its first conference on environmental problems with the participation of scientists and researchers from Jordan and 11 other Arab countries.

During the three-day conference, 50 delegates will focus on 11 major topics covering organic and chemical fertilisers, agricultural input types, bio-diversity, rehabilitating natural pastures, desertification, recycling agricultural and industrial waste products, exemplary methods for the exploitation of water resources, water salinity and its problems, and environmental pollution.

Deputising for HRH Prince Firas at the opening of the conference, Mu'ta University President 'Eid Dahiyat stated that the

world has been giving much attention to the question of the environment over the past three decades after humans began paying a high price as a result of environmental pollution and the abuse of natural resources.

Among the challenges facing Jordan and the Arab World are desertification, the population explosion and a decrease in the size of arable lands, said Dr. Dahiyat, noting that deserts constitute 90 per cent of the Arab World.

Stressing that natural resources are also the right of future generations, Dr. Dahiyat said everything possible should be done to ensure a balance in nature by protecting the environment from pollution.

Khaled Tarawneh, dean of the university's agricul-

ture faculty, which organised the meeting, told the opening session that the economic development needed in the 21st century requires an increase in production and at the same time drastic solutions for environmental problems.

He expressed appreciation for the Arab Organisation for Agricultural Development, the Jordan Phosphate Mines Company and the Arab Potash Company as well as the Abdul Hamid Shoman Foundation, the Cairo Amman Bank, the Housing Bank and the Islamic Bank for their contributions to the conference.

The countries represented at the meetings are Jordan, Syria, Iraq, Egypt, Libya, Morocco, Sudan, Saudi Arabia, Lebanon, Algeria, Tunisia and Yemen.

Seminar preparing international donor proposals to help country's disabled

By Suha Ma'ayeh
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — A joint Jordanian-European seminar is preparing proposals that will be submitted to international donors to help Jordan's disabled, officially estimated at over 48,850 of the country's 4.2 million population.

The three-day seminar, organised by the Jordanian-European Information, Training and Technical Assistance for non-governmental organisations (JETT) project in cooperation with the Queen Alia Fund for Social Development (QAF), is expected to end later today.

NGOs and charities work-

ing with the disabled are attending training workshops at the Queen Zein Al Sharaf Development Complex.

Hassan Ustah, director of the JETT Project, said the present workshops were a follow up to similar ones held in January.

"We found out that there is a need to conduct workshops in order to develop specialised training for participants on how to chart project proposals, which they can submit to international donors," Mr. Ustah told the Jordan Times.

Each of the participating NGOs will have to prepare a proposal for donors, he added.

Michael Porsken, president of Eurocom, a German charity founded in Berlin in 1989, said detecting disability at an early stage would lead to much better results.

"Early detection of disability, especially at a very young age, and integrating disabled children with non-disabled results in better communication, and the disabled will learn how to fight for their rights," he said.

He said Jordan had modern laws dealing with the rights of the disabled and integrating them in society.

However, Dr. Porsken stressed that raising awareness among parents of the disabled on how to deal with them was essential, instead of shunning them.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Last group of Arab Israeli Hajj pilgrims leave Jordan

AMMAN (Petra) — The last group of Arab Israeli pilgrims that performed this year's Hajj to Mecca on Tuesday crossed the King Hussein Bridge on the Jordan River. A total of 3,500 Arab Israeli pilgrims performed the Hajj this year.

*Temperatures to cool

Monday/Thursday

AMMAN (Petra) — The heat wave that has affected the country over the last week is expected to diminish as of Thursday afternoon, according to Meteorology Department sources. Temperatures over the next couple of days will be 9-12

degrees higher than average for this time of the year, the sources said.

65-year-old man killed by son

AMMAN (J.T.) — Police in the Koura district Monday disclosed details of the murder of a 65-year-old man in the town of Zinal. Police sources said the man was shot by his son for family reasons. "The suspect allegedly shot his father while he was working at his farm and then hid the pistol he used near the farm. Meanwhile, in Kiteh in the Jerash Governorate, a 70-year-old man, identified as Mursbed Rawashdeh, was found hanged to death.



Gorbachev to deliver lecture next week

AMMAN — Former Soviet Union President Mikhail Gorbachev is to deliver a lecture entitled "Leadership and Global Challenges" at the Institute of Diplomacy in Amman on Monday, April 20, 1998.

The lecture, organised jointly by the Institute of Diplomacy and the United Nations International Leadership Academy (ILA), will be delivered in Russian with simultaneous translation for the benefit of the local audience.

The event will be held under the patronage of Her Majesty Queen Noor, president of the ILA consultative council.

what's going on

FILMS

* Spanish children's film "Palace" at Instituto Cervantes, Jabal Amman on Thursday, April 16, at 5:00 p.m.

* "Fern Gully: The Last Rainforest" at the American Center, Abdoun on Thursday, April 16, at 5:00 p.m.

BALLET AND CONCERT

* Ballet performance by the students of the Ahlyyah School for Girls at the Royal Cultural Centre at 8:00 p.m.

* The cycle "The Miracle of Life" from the poems of Jabra Ibrahim Jabra, composed by Agnes Bashir, will be sung by Tania Tamara Nasser at Darat Al Funun, Jabal Weibdeh on Friday, April 17 (7:00 p.m.-9:00 p.m.).

LECTURES

* "The Arabic Epigraphic Poems of Granada and Generalife" (in Arabic) by Dr. Salah Jarrar at Instituto Cervantes, Jabal Amman at 6:00 p.m.

* "International Right to Exploitation of Water" (in English) by Dr. Christian Ule at the Applied Science University at 10:00 a.m.

EXHIBITIONS

* Photographic exhibition entitled "A Tour in the Dead Sea" by Jaussen and Savignac at the French Cultural Centre, until April 30.

* Paintings by Lebanese-American artist Etel Adnan entitled "Artist's Book of Art and Poetry" at Darat Al Funun, Jabal Weibdeh, until May 21.

* Works by Maurice Hadad at Hammurabi Arts Gallery, Gardens Street (Tel. 5536098), until April 22.

* Exhibition of works by Jordanian artists Ramin Rshaid, Abdullah Thabshat and Qasem Al Dwairi at the Royal Cultural Centre, until April 16.

* Paintings on handmade paper at Noor Al Hussein Foundation, off Wadi Sagra St. (Tel. 5699141/2), until April 25.

Sharif refused to conduct attack on Israel — PNA

(Continued from page 1)

preparations had not been made for a bombing, the official said. Hamas has vehemently rejected police claims that Sharif was killed in an internal dispute within the movement and has accused Israel of slaying him with help from Palestinian security officials.

Sharif's death has led to sharp tensions between Palestinian National Authority (PNA) and Hamas and police have arrested dozens of Hamas members since Sharif's murder. In a closed session, Mr. Abdul

Rahim presented a report of Sharif's death to the 88-member council, which decided to form a commission to review the police investigations, members said.

Mr. Abdul Rahim told the council that Sharif's killers "are now in police custody and investigations are ongoing to find out who issued orders for his assassination," a member said.

"Disputes over whether to conduct attacks or not played a role in Sharif's murder," council members quoted Mr. Abdul Rahim as saying in the session.

Palestinian officials, who have tried to convince local Hamas leaders to halt their attacks, have in the past blamed bombings on the movement's leaders in exile in neighbouring Arab countries. Sharif's body was found in Ramallah at the site of an explosion which police say was set off by Mr. Awadallah's followers in a bid to disguise his murder. It took three days for Palestinian police to identify the body as Sharif, who has topped Israel's most wanted list for his role in planning bomb attacks which have killed scores of Israelis.

PhRMA requests Jordan be placed on 'priority watch' list

(Continued from page 1)

worsened despite intense diplomatic pressure from major trading partners.

The United States Trade Representative (USTR) has last year placed Jordan on a special 301 "Watch" list of countries violating Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) rules.

It cited inadequate IPR protection for pharmaceutical and other intellectual property-sensitive industries such as computer soft-

ware and video games.

However, director of the Technical Support Unit at the Planning Ministry, Yusuf Mansur, dismissed the importance of PhRMA's request to place Jordan on the "Priority Watch" list for as long as Jordan is working to upgrade its IPR laws.

"We are not concerned at all because we are doing all we can to bring our intellectual property rights into best international practice," he said.

"In fact, Jordan received excellent reports from the World Intellectual Property Organisation (WIPO) regarding our revised IPR legislation," Dr. Mansur added.

Jordanian pharmaceutical manufacturers and officials believe that achieving adequate and effective protection of patents will encourage creativity and enhance the country's development. "One must keep in mind that Jordan is a developing country and for it to move

towards complete IPR application and implementation, it needs training and a fair grace period for adjustment," Dr. Mansur earlier told the Jordan Times.

Under the association agreement reached between Jordan and the European Union in November to create a gradual free trade zone by the year 2010, Jordan was given a grace period of three years to implement internationally acceptable

IPR laws for its pharmaceutical industry.

Jordan's 16 drug manufacturers, whose exports topped \$140 million last year, want the Kingdom — about to accede to the World Trade Organisation (WTO) — not to show flexibility when negotiating a grace period with the 142-member organisation.

Jordan, which is currently engaged in negotiations with the WTO hopes to join the organisation in the near future.

Talks between N. and S. Korea collapse

BEIJING (R) — Talks between rivals North and South Korea broke down Tuesday over Seoul's demand for concessions on reuniting separated Korean families as the price for fertilizer aid to its famine-stricken neighbour.

Chief negotiators from the two sides traded barbed comments after a final session failed to break a stalemate, each blaming the other for the impasse.

Pyeongyang had called for the first high-level contact in four years to discuss a request for fertilizer to help with the spring crop planting.

But at the outset of the talks Saturday, South Korea linked aid to progress on political issues, particularly the question of reuniting families separated since the 1950-53 Korean war.

"Because the South attached political conditions to an economic and humanitarian issue, talks did not succeed," North Korea's chief negotiator Jon Kum-Chol told reporters.

"I came here thinking it would be easy to agree on the simple matter of fertilizer," he said.

The head of the South Korean delegation Jeong Se-Hyun, the vice-minister for national unification, said Seoul was adamant it would not give fertilizer unless Pyongyang backed down on

family visits.

"North Korea said the family issue is a political issue while the fertilizer issue was a humanitarian issue. But we believe the reunion of families is a humanitarian issue of the first order," he told a separate news conference.

"Without any sign of goodwill from the North Korean side we cannot provide unilateral aid because the South Korean public will not support unilateral concessions."

However, Mr. Jeong held out a glimmer of hope by saying negotiating teams would stay in Beijing for another two days.

"We agreed to reexamine our respective positions and if there is any change we will contact each other," he said. "But there is no guarantee that they will resume."

"I have doubts that North Korea understands what is meant by reciprocity," he said.

North Korea's Mr. Jon revealed that he had asked for 500,000 tonnes of fertilizer. Previous reports had said the North was seeking 200,000 tonnes.

Mr. Jon said the fertilizer would have to arrive within a few months to be of any use.

He insisted Pyongyang had shown good faith by agreeing to expand the talks

from fertilizer to political issues.

"The attachment of pre-conditions was a departure from our original position," he said. "We made a concession by agreeing to talk about other issues of mutual interest."

North Korea is suffering from three years of floods and drought and millions are on the edge of starvation.

But large-scale aid to the often hostile north is a tough sell among South Koreans hit hard by the Asian financial crisis that has sparked bankruptcies and rising unemployment.

Seoul had also proposed discussing an exchange of permanent envoys and reopening liaison offices in the border town of Panmunjom that the North abandoned in 1996.

Also on the agenda was implementation of a 1991 basic agreement to pursue peaceful reunification.

It was the first high-level contact between the bitter enemies since vice-premiers of the two sides met in 1994 to discuss the first-ever inter-Korean presidential summit.

But the death of North Korea's "great leader" Kim Il-Sung that year intervened, and relations later turned icy.



Archbishop Desmond Tutu speaks to the press outside the George court house. Lawyers of the former South African President P.W. Botha and the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) are trying to negotiate a deal with the TRC so that Mr. Botha does not have to testify in court and avoid embarrassment of having criminal record (Reuters photo)

Chief prosecutor sets deadline for Botha trial deal

GEORGE, South Africa (AFP) — The chief prosecutor in the truth commission's case against former South African President P.W. Botha has set a deadline of 8:00 a.m. (0600 GMT) Wednesday for opposing lawyers to strike a deal which would halt the case.

State prosecutor Bruce Morrison told the court after hours of intensive discussions during an adjournment Tuesday that the parties were "very close to reaching an agreement" but had not yet struck a deal.

He said Attorney General Frank Kahn "has made it clear that unless the parties reach agreement by 8:00 a.m., the matter will proceed."

The imposition of a deadline came after hours of

talks between lawyers for the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) and the 82-year-old apartheid-era hardliner.

Mr. Botha went on trial earlier Tuesday charged with refusing to testify before the commission, which is probing human rights abuses committed during the apartheid era.

However, when the case was adjourned for further discussion after only 10 minutes, it appeared likely that a compromise would be reached which would see Mr. Botha giving testimony before a specially-arranged TRC hearing.

In return the case would be dropped.

TRC chairman Archbishop Desmond Tutu told reporters outside the court: "We believed we

were very close to an agreement. The negotiations are on a knife-edge."

"We do not know which way it will turn. We hope very much that agreement will be reached. The TRC has wanted an agreement," the retired Anglican archbishop said.

"It is imperative that people realise that the commission was set up to do very important work for the healing of the nation. We hope Mr. Botha and his legal team will see their way clear to participate in the process of reconciliation."

The TRC wants to question Mr. Botha on his leadership of the now-defunct State Security Council which supervised state repression of the black struggle against apartheid.

7m Indians bathe in Ganges as pilgrimage draws to close

HARDWAR, India (AFP) — Almost seven million Hindu devotees crowded into the northern Indian city of Hardwar Tuesday for the climax of a festival touted as the world's largest pilgrimage gathering.

Wave after wave of worshippers made their way to the banks of the Ganges as the Mahakumbh festival, which began in January and is held here every 12 years, wound down.

Police, meanwhile, were declaring the event a major logistical success following earlier fears of possible stampedes or violence between religious sects.

Chief of police V.K. Gupta said: "Some 6.5 million people have already come and by the end of the day the figure is bound to go up higher."

"There is a continuous stream of humanity and there is a three kilometre road which is choked with people."

Huge crowds of devotees, chanting prayers, hurled garlands and gems into the river, considered sacred by Hindus, before symbolically washing away their sins.

The closing act came as a congregation of 40,000 holy men, most naked and sporting long matted hair and beards, bathed in the river to mark the end of the festival.

Hardwar, in the foothills of the Himalayas, normally has a population of around 300,000 people. More than 10 million people have converged on the city since Monday. Massive tent encampments were set up to cope with the influx.

Police said at the start of the week that they were determined to avoid a repeat of previous festival tragedies.

Around 30 people were crushed to death in 1986, while hundreds were killed in a stampede when the festival was held in 1954 in the northern town of Allahabad. The authorities have often been accused of

making little effort to safeguard the pilgrims.

Such fears were brought into focus after at least 118 Muslim pilgrims died in a stampede during a pilgrimage to Mecca last week.

But the police's only real problem in the final days of the Mahakumbh came when a row escalated between rival sects of holy men or "sadhus", many of them known for their aggressive behaviour, over bathing areas and timings.

Chief organiser J.P. Sharma, who responded by banning the sects' religious processions down to the Ganges, relented after the groups, most of them from remote Himalayan regions, and committed to poverty and the search for enlightenment, pledged to avoid violence.

"The Hindu holy men wanted the procession to be taken out in traditional glory and style and we have agreed," Mr. Sharma said.

The authorities, however, took no chances, with around 6,000 police accompanying each of the religious processions down to the river. In all, around 25,000 police and paramilitaries were on duty.

Tuesday's bathing took place in 27 areas spread over a radius of 12.5 kilometres from the main bathing platform in Har Ke Pouri (Stairs of the Gods).

Massive queues of people Tuesday edged through the crowded in soaring temperatures on their way to the edge of the Ganges. Hindus believe the holy river will help them wash away their sins.

This year's celebrations in the city, some 175 kilometres north of New Delhi in the northern state of Uttar Pradesh, have been termed the most sacred since they are the last this century.

Last month in Hardwar 150 holy men were hurt, with some reports indicating 10 deaths, after clashes between sects.



Malnourished babies are seen at Pyongsan County Hospital, North Korea. The head of the U.N. World Food Programme Catherine Bertini again lashed out at North Korea for not letting international aid workers freely monitor distribution of food to its famine hit population (Reuters photo)

After gang's retribution, 15 dead in Bogota prison

BOGOTA (R) — At least 15 people died in Bogota's Picota prison Monday when a gang leader was killed and prisoners seeking revenge slaughtered 14 inmates in another cellblock, authorities said.

It was the worst bloodshed in Colombia's notoriously overcrowded prisons in more than a decade.

Francisco Bernal, director of the National Prison Institute, said the carnage began at about 11 a.m. (1600 GMT) when inmates from the prison's No. 4 cellblock murdered Oscar Rodriguez, the ringleader of a gang that controls two other cellblocks.

About two hours later, Rodriguez's Henchmen, armed with guns and knives they had smuggled into the prison, reacted by storming cellblock No. 4 and killing 13 inmates, Mr. Bernal said. "They took it by assault," Mr. Bernal said, explaining that Rodriguez's followers overwhelmed prison guards to enter the area that housed their leader's killers.

"The murder by inmates from cellblock No. 4... provoked this very serious act that resulted in the killing of 13 other inmates," Mr. Bernal said in an interview on Radionet news radio.

He said three inmates were seriously injured in the attack, and prison officials said later one of them had

died in a hospital.

Calling the death toll "a tragedy," Mr. Bernal said it marked the worst single incident in any Colombian prison in years.

Colombia's prison system houses more than 43,000 inmates in facilities built for about 30,000, and overcrowding and squalid conditions have been cited repeatedly as among the root causes of violent uprisings and clashes between inmates.

The worst previous incident in a Colombian prison this year occurred on Feb. 4, when six inmates died in a clash between rival gangs armed with knives, guns and homemade grenades in the modelo penitentiary in Cucuta, on Colombia's border with Venezuela.

Mr. Bernal said the Picota prison currently housed 1,356 inmates but did not specify the population the ageing facility on the southern outskirts of Bogota was built to hold.

Luis Carlos Mendez, a spokesman for the prison's security guards, said the authorities were at least partly responsible for Monday's violence, since the Picota had just 90 guards, or 45 for each of two daily shifts.

Only one guard was on duty in cellblock No. 4 when it was raided by the killers Monday, he told reporters. President Ernesto Samper

called an urgent meeting of his national security advisers late Monday, but few concrete decisions were taken. After the meeting, Justice Minister Almaguer Rengifo reiterated pledges to beef up weapons checks and other security controls on visitors to the prison.

She rejected suggestions that the violence was a product of chronic overcrowding.

"This was not sparked by overcrowding. This unfortunate incident is a product of the violence that we are all suffering in Colombia," Ms. Rengifo told reporters.

Local media speculated before the crisis meeting that Mr. Samper was preparing to "militarise" the country's penitentiaries by shifting control over them to the national police from the National Prison Institute.

The Picota's most notorious inmates, who live in the relative luxury of its maximum-security wing, are brothers Miguel and Gilberto Rodriguez Orejuela, leaders of the Cali drug cartel, which once controlled about 80 per cent of the world's cocaine supply.

Mr. Bernal said the inmates in the Picota's blood-soaked cellblock No. 4 came from all walks of criminal life but most were hardened prisoners guilty of kidnapping and murder.

Oldest Bulgarian marks 119th birth-

SOFIA (AFP) — Bulgaria's oldest known citizen, Feime Hassanova, celebrated her 119th birthday Tuesday, the Standard reported here.

In an interview with the daily, Ms. Hassanova played down her longevity, saying: "I am old, but there must be people older than I am."

Married to an older man at age 12 according to her father's wishes, Ms. Hassanova's husband Mehmed died in 1972 at age 108.

She cannot read, write or count and said she has never seen a radio or television, but is a devout Muslim and "prays to Allah five times a day," the report said.

Mrs. Hassanova had five children, two of whom are still living, 16 grandchildren, 17 great-grandchildren and four great-great-grandchildren — one of whom translated for the old lady who speaks only a dialect, the paper said.

During her long life, she farmed and raised sheep and mules, but complains now that a weakness in her legs prevents her from working.

Potatoes, milk, yoghurt, beans and mutton are her main foods. "I don't eat any pork or beef. But I like good things," she told the Standard.

Quake rattles Tangshan city, near Beijing

BEIJING (AFP) — A minor earthquake Tuesday struck just outside the northeastern city of Tangshan, where more than 200,000 were killed in 1976 by the most deadly tremor in Chinese history, the State Seismology Bureau said.

Tuesday's quake, which measured 4.7 on the Richter scale, occurred at 10:47 a.m. (0247 GMT), it said.

A district government official told AFP there were no immediate reports of casualties. Workers moved out of doors when the quake began, but there was no panic and the situation quickly returned to normal, she said.

Minor damage was reported in the city's Dongkuang district, where chimneys, old walls, and the watchtower of the Pijidian jail collapsed. But no homes were destroyed, according to Wang Yunqi, a director of the Hebei Provincial Seismological Bureau, quoted by Xinhua.

The epicentre of the quake was located in Guye district, 175 kilometres east of here at 39.40 degrees north lati-

tude and 118.28 degrees east.

An official with the State Seismological Bureau said the quake would have no major impact on nearby cities of Tangshan, Beijing, and Tianjin.

"There is little possibility of a stronger quake in the area in the near future," he added, according to Xinhua news agency, which added that there were no injuries.

The bureau said the quake was along the same fault-line as the 1976 tremor that flattened Tangshan, killing 242,000 people according to official figures.

The state media has boasted the city had been completely rebuilt using construction techniques designed to resist quakes of up to eight on the Richter scale.

A Jan. 10 quake struck rural villages northwest of here in Hebei province, killing 47 and leaving more than 44,000 homeless.

Seismological officials at the time downplayed the possibility of a disastrous quake hitting Beijing.

Australia to crack down on Asian sex slaves

CANBERRA (AFP) — An escalation in the number of Asian women working in Australian brothels prompted the government Tuesday to initiate a crackdown on organisers of the burgeoning sex slave trade.

"We need legislation that targets the traffickers that recruit, organise and profit from those engaged in prostitution in slave-like conditions," Justice Minister Amanda Vanstone said in a background paper on the problem.

She said there had been a noticeable increase in the number of mostly Asian women working in virtual slavery, in legal and illegal brothels, often lured to Australia on the pretence of gaining legitimate jobs.

Existing laws had proven ineffective in curbing the trade, she said.

Immigration department figures showed 54 people were deported for working illegally in brothels in 1996-97.

In the seven months to January, 67 were deported for the same offence.

The issue is to be discussed Friday at a meeting of attorneys-general in Perth.

Ms. Vanstone said the movement of women was arranged by international crime syndicates, some with links to the drug trade.

It was highly organised and used sophisticated international networks of procurers, document forgers and providers, escorts, organisers, financiers, corrupt officials and brothel operators.

"The high profit potential, combined with the difficulty of detection and comparatively low penalties from prosecution, has resulted in an increase in the number of groups engaged in these activities," she said.

Although some women enter Australia to work in the sex industry, others come on the promise of jobs in restaurants, nightclubs or as nannies.

Organisers can exploit their vulnerability by demanding repayment of debts as high as \$50,000 Australian dollars (\$33,500), supposedly incurred in organising their travel, the debt being used to coerce the women into prostitution.

There have been claims that women have had to service 500 men to clear their debt.

Others have complained of long shifts, limited food and medical care, no freedom of movement and of having to engage in unprotected sex.

Ms. Vanstone said investigators had pointed to a cash flow of up to \$1 million a week, most going to organisers overseas.

As well, the trade involved breaches of immigration law.

Significant numbers of foreign sex workers were also claiming refugee status to gain work visas while their status was considered a process that can take several years.

Thousands of Indonesian students call on Suharto to step down

BRANG, Indonesia (AFP) — Thousands of Indonesian students held a mass rally Tuesday demanding the resignation of President Suharto.

The rally, held at the University of West Sumatra, was part of a series of protests against Suharto's 32-year rule.

The students, many of whom are members of the Indonesian National Student Union, called for Suharto to step down.

The rally was held in the city of Padang, the capital of West Sumatra.

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Thousands of Indonesian students call on Suharto to step down

PADANG, Indonesia (AFP) — Thousands of Indonesian students Tuesday held a mass rally here to demand the resignation of President Suharto over the country's crippling economic crisis.

Some 5,000 banner-waving students rallied at Andalas University in West Sumatra province to demand an emergency session of parliament to impeach Mr. Suharto, 76, now serving his seventh five-year term in office.

"Suharto must step down," was the slogan on one of the posters.

"The economic crisis has reached a critical level and the ones responsible for the situation are in Suharto's government," said Rahmatullah from the campus in Padang, the capital of West Sumatra.

Students from eight state and private universities in the province joined the rally which was closely watched by security forces.

The students later dispersed peacefully.

"There is a particular need for cultural reformation, especially given that Indonesia is regarded as the most corrupt nation in the world after Brazil and Mexico," said rally coordinator Agusmandani.

Students around the country have kept up their pressure on the government since the end of February, with the most violent incident taking place when 15 students and five policemen were injured in a clash two weeks ago at a university in the central Java town of Yogyakarta.

The minister of education has since banned all "practical politics" on campus or any attempts to influence the political decision-making process.

The demonstrating students have rejected the ban and called on the government and the military to respect their right to free speech.



Democratic Party Chairman Martin Lee (second left) and Vice-Chairman Yeung Sum (second right) flash victory signs with party members Chan Kwok-Leung (left) and Yuen Bun-Keung as they register as candidates to run in Hong Kong's Legislative Council election (Reuters photo)

Hong Kong democrat Lee steps into election fray

HONG KONG (R) — Hong Kong's champion of democracy, Martin Lee, Tuesday registered for the territory's first legislative election under Chinese rule, but branded the polls unfair, confusing and anti-democratic.

"Up to now the government has not succeeded in promoting the election," Mr. Lee told reporters as he filed his candidacy for the Hong Kong island constituency.

The new electoral arrangements are very confusing," he said of the legislative council election that culminates on May 24.

Polls suggest only 35 per cent of 2.8 million eligible voters will cast ballots because of confusion and disenchantment over changes made since Britain handed Hong Kong back to China last July after 156 years of colonial rule.

Under the new system, only one-third of the 60 seats will be returned by geographical constituencies in democratic balloting by the general public.

Thirty will be filled by "functional constituencies," which effectively

means voting by companies and professional groups.

The remaining 10 seats will be chosen by an 800-member committee dominated by pro-Beijing businessmen and politicians.

Although enthusiasm for the May 24 polls is low, opinion polls have shown Mr. Lee's popular democratic party and its allies will win 65 to 70 per cent of the 20 seats in the democratic portion of the election.

Pro-Beijing political parties, who have sat in an unelected interim legislature since the change in sovereignty and who benefit from the changed election rules, blasted the democrats as they launched their campaign.

Monday, Tsang Yok-Sing, leader of the Democratic Alliance for the Betterment of Hong Kong, accused "some politicians" of taking advantage of people's mistrust of China and of acting as prophets of doom in a bid to win popular support.

"They made hair-raising remarks during the 1995 elections, asking people

not to trust the Chinese government's promise of 'one country, two systems'," Mr. Tsang said.

"They said if democratic warriors like them were not elected, Hong Kong would be controlled by Beijing after the handover, and democracy, human rights, freedom and fair elections would vanish."

"After some of them joined the legislative council, they did nothing constructive or helpful to electors' problems, but kept repeating their gloomy chorus," he said.

Mr. Tsang's remarks were a sharp attack on Mr. Lee, who has also been scolded by Hong Kong's China-appointed leader, Tung Chee-Hwa, for "bad-mouthing" the territory.

Mr. Lee is Hong Kong's most popular politician because of his outspoken criticism of Tung and Communist-ruled Beijing.

He is seen as a beacon of democracy and de facto opposition leader. Hong Kong's 6.6 million people have never had a chance to elect a leader directly.

Communist speaker of Russian lower house backs Kiriyenko

MOSCOW (AFP) — Gennady Seleznyov, the Communist speaker of the lower house State Duma, said Tuesday he supported the candidacy of Sergei Kiriyenko for prime minister, Interfax reported.

"The candidacy of Sergei Kiriyenko for the post of prime minister must be confirmed," Mr. Seleznyov told reporters after a meeting with President Boris Yeltsin, who has insisted on Mr. Kiriyenko being confirmed as prime minister.

Leftist parties in parliament previously instructed their deputies to vote against Mr. Kiriyenko's candidacy. Mr. Seleznyov is seen as a moderate, though influential, figure in the

Communist party leadership.

Communist leader Gennady Zyuganov has argued that Mr. Yeltsin's renomination of Mr. Kiriyenko violates the constitution, and that the 35-year-old technocrat is too young and inexperienced to be prime minister.

But Mr. Seleznyov said Mr. Yeltsin was intent on sticking with his young protégé, and that parliament should not jeopardise its own future by vetoing the candidate and risking dissolution.

"For me it is a thousand times more important to preserve the Duma and let it work for its full constitutional mandate," Mr.

Seleznyov said.

The Duma, which has scheduled a second vote on Mr. Kiriyenko's candidacy for Friday, faces dissolution and fresh parliamentary elections if it rejects the president's candidate three times.

Deputies voted by 186 votes to 143 last Friday against Mr. Kiriyenko's candidacy.

Mr. Seleznyov said Mr. Yeltsin "did not give any orders to dissolve the Duma, but said he would make use of his constitutional right," if the Lower House of Parliament rejected Mr. Kiriyenko three times.

Barring dissolution, parliamentary elections are not

due until December 1999.

"I warned the president that the result of the second round vote might not be what he is expecting, but the president intends firmly to present Kiriyenko's candidacy," Mr. Seleznyov said.

He added that Mr. Kiriyenko would take proposals by both houses of parliament into consideration when forming his government and would "continue talks with parliamentary groups up to Friday to reply to all questions left unanswered after the first vote."

Mr. Yeltsin for his part was satisfied with his talks with the parliament speaker, his spokesman Sergei Yastrzhembsky said.

S. African foreign minister visits jailed East Timorese leader

JAKARTA (AFP) — Visiting South African Foreign Minister Alfred Nzo was believed to have met Tuesday with jailed East Timorese pro-independence leader Xanana Gusmao here.

Mr. Nzo arrived at Jakarta's Cipinang jail at a few minutes past 1:00 P.M. (0630 GMT) and left one hour later, witnesses said. He made no comment to the press.

Earlier Indonesian Foreign Minister Ali Alatas told journalists that he was to meet Tuesday "with Xanana Gusmao at the Cipinang jail."

Mr. Alatas, speaking after joining Mr. Nzo in talks with Indonesia's President Suharto, said Mr. Nzo had come as a special envoy of South African leader Nelson Mandela, who made the request in a personal letter Mr. Nzo delivered to Mr. Suharto.

"President Mandela asked in his letter that Foreign Minister Nzo be given the opportunity to meet with Xanana Gusmao and we have already agreed," Mr. Alatas said.

Mr. Gusmao was jailed for life in May 1994 for plotting against the state and illegal possession of firearms. Mr. Suharto later commuted the sentence to a 20-year jail term.

Until his 1992 arrest, Mr. Gusmao was the leader of the East Timor separatist movement, Fretilin, which has been fighting the Indonesian presence there since the area was invaded in 1975 and annexed a year later.

Mr. Mandela last year pledged help in reaching a solution to the East Timor situation, Mr. Nzo said, stressing any assistance would remain within the context of a U.N. initiative already underway.

In July last year after a visit with Mr. Gusmao, Mr. Mandela called for the resistance leader's release, saying it was an essential step in resolving the conflict in the former Portuguese colony. Lisbon severed ties with Jakarta shortly after Indonesia sent its troops into East Timor.

The United Nations, which still views Lisbon as the administrator of East Timor, has since 1983 sponsored talks between Indonesia and Portugal aimed at reaching a peaceful settlement in the dispute.

Mr. Nzo said Mr. Suharto had briefed him on the progress of the U.N.-sponsored talks. The South African minister is scheduled to leave Indonesia for Singapore later Tuesday.

Yeltsin to challenge war booty law

MOSCOW (AFP) — President Boris Yeltsin warned Tuesday he would challenge a law that bans the return to Germany of cultural treasures looted by wartime Soviet forces, despite being ordered to sign the controversial legislation by Russia's top court.

Mr. Yeltsin vowed he would not scrap his plans to return the priceless "trophy art" pillaged at the end of World War II, despite being ordered last week by the Constitutional Court to sign the trophy art bill into law.

The Russian president said he had yet to heed the court's instruction and sign the law, which forbids the return of all cultural treasures pillaged by the Red Army, and stressed that he planned to appeal to the top court to challenge the substance and legality of the parliamentary bill.

"The law has not yet been signed," Mr. Yeltsin told journalists before talks with his Acting Foreign Minister Yevgeny Primakov.

"I have prepared and will sign today a petition to the Constitutional Court questioning how we can understand its ruling when there were so many serious mistakes" when the war booty law was originally passed in parliament, Mr. Yeltsin said.

"The Constitutional Court

has not examined the substance of this law. It has only looked at its form," Mr. Yeltsin added.

Mr. Yeltsin's spokesman Sergei Yastrzhembsky added that the president would undoubtedly sign the trophy art bill as required by the court, but would then take up his challenge over the substance and legality of the law, Interfax reported.

Failure to sign the law would amount to a challenge to the authority of the supreme Russian court, instituted by Mr. Yeltsin's own 1993-vintage constitution.

Parliament moved to pass the trophy art bill to prevent the return of all cultural treasures brought to the Soviet Union during World War II, "whoever their current owners may be or whatever the circumstances under which they were acquired."

Mindful of the damage it would cause to Russia's fledgling partnership with Germany, Mr. Yeltsin vetoed the bill, but parliament summoned enough votes to override his veto in April 1997.

Mr. Yeltsin has continued to contest the legislation, however, arguing that deputies violated voting procedures by resorting to postal votes in order to override his veto.

The Constitutional Court

stepped into the row between president and parliament by ordering Mr. Yeltsin to sign the bill, arguing that as parliament had overridden his veto to pass the legislation, he could not procrastinate further.

The original trophy art bill bans "illegal export of this Russian property" and considers the goods "compensation for the damage caused to the cultural heritage" of the Soviet Union during the war against Nazi Germany.

The booty includes 300,000 works of art, including the famed Priam's Treasure excavated in 1873 from the presumed site of the ancient city of Troy, two million books and three kilometres of archives.

After insisting for decades that there were no plundered artworks in Kremlin cellars or the vaults of Russian museums, the country has been gradually bringing the treasures to light in recent years.

Paintings by Renoir, Manet, van Gogh, Degas and Gauguin have all turned up in exhibitions in Saint Petersburg and Moscow, and Priam's Treasure has been given a room in Moscow's Pushkin Museum.

Taleban welcome senior U.S. envoy's Afghan visit

KABUL (AFP) — The Taliban militia Tuesday welcomed U.S. special envoy Bill Richardson's forthcoming visit to Afghanistan, saying it would help restore the war-ravaged country's links with the outside world.

Mr. Richardson, Washington's ambassador to the United Nations, is due here Friday for a one-day visit which will include talks with the Taleban's rivals in the northern cities of Fajzabad and Shibergha.

"We believe this trip is significant," a Taleban spokesman, Mulla Wakil Ahmad Mutawakel, told AFP.

"We hope the trip has a positive role in settling the

Afghan issue and also in restoring Afghanistan's relations with the outside world," he said by telephone from the religious militia's headquarters in southern Afghanistan.

Accompanied by senior U.S. officials, Mr. Richardson will press the Taleban militia, which holds two-thirds of the country and the capital Kabul, and the opposition forces which control several northern provinces, to initiate a dialogue to end bloodshed.

He is also expected to discuss the human rights situation, particularly restrictions on women introduced by the Taleban and obstacles to United Nations aid operations in Afghanistan.

Mr. Mutawakel did not say what message Mr. Richardson, the first senior U.S. official to visit Afghanistan in 20 years, was bringing for the Afghan people.

The Taleban had not yet been given an official list of items to be raised in the talks, the spokesman said, although he believed the issues of women and education would be on the agenda.

The visit has raised hopes here the United States might embark on a direct role in fostering peace in Afghanistan, after interest in the country waned following the pullout of the former Soviet forces in 1988.

U.N. faults France, Switzerland, Brunei over asylum seekers

GENEVA (AFP) — The U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) criticised France, Switzerland and Brunei Tuesday for handing-over to Malaysian police 27 Indonesians seeking asylum in their embassies.

"They could have waited a little longer since these people need to be heard" so as to determine whether they are valid political refugees, said UNHCR spokesman Kris Janowski.

The French, Swiss and Brunei embassies in Kuala Lumpur handed over the 28 asylum seekers Friday — a week after they climbed

into the mission compounds in a bid to avoid deportation.

All the illegal immigrants were from Aceh province in north Sumatra to the west of peninsular Malaysia.

They argued that they faced reprisals back home because of a low-level separatist campaign which has rumbled on in the province since the 1970s.

Another 22 immigrants who took refuge in the U.S. embassy and the UNHCR compound in the Malaysian capital were still waiting for their fate to be decided Tuesday.

The UNHCR and the United States are seeking to determine if the immigrants genuinely face political persecution or are just economic refugees.

Mr. Janowski said the UNHCR had not been consulted by the three embassies who decided to hand the Indonesians over to the police.

The UNHCR has expressed concern because Malaysian police last year failed to respect an agreement not to expel Indonesians who had sought refuge in the Swiss and Dutch embassies. Some had been deported, the spokesman said.

German policeman surrenders after murder

TRAUNSTEIN, Germany (AFP) — A German policeman who shot dead one man and seriously wounded a fellow officer gave himself up Tuesday, together with a hostage.

The 32-year-old officer, whose identity was not revealed, surrendered in the town of Piding in Bavaria. The hostage was unharmed.

Monday evening, the policeman allegedly shot and killed a 25-year-old man in Bad-

Klosterlausnitz in eastern Germany. The victim had tried to intervene in a violent quarrel between the officer and his former girlfriend.

The policeman fled in a BMW, only to find himself stopped at a random police checkpoint on the motorway linking Munich and the Austrian city of Salzburg.

Realising the car was marked, he opened fire without warning on his fellow officers — hitting one in the chest and arm — before swapping

cars and speeding off.

He later grabbed a 28-year-old hostage from the toilets at a motorway rest stop.

The officer managed to cross the border and stayed in Salzburg for four hours, before returning to Piding on the German side of the frontier.

As he was driving a police car, police said they were able to remain in regular contact with the officer, and finally managed to convince him to turn himself in.

Jordan Times

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Points for points system

THE TRAFFIC Department will as of today apply its newly-introduced points system, which it hopes will reduce the number of road accidents and traffic-related fatalities and injuries. When enforced it is hoped that the new procedure will help end the carnage on our roads and highways. The system envisages the opening of a file for each driver in which his or her traffic violations will be duly recorded. If and when a certain driver accumulates 11 violations over a two-year period, he or she will have to go to a driving school to learn more about safer and more courteous driving habits. If a given driver's points go up to 12 thereafter, his or her driving licence will be suspended for a duration of two months, and for four months if the points increase to 16. Six months if the points climb up to 20, and one year when the points reach 24.

This is all well and good and may indeed promise a new order on our roads and highways. The sticking point, however, is that major traffic violations escape detection because traffic police do not seem to care except for some contraventions. We would like to ask about the number of tickets given to people who have ignored stop signs during the past five years, for example. The same goes for drivers who make wrong turns or change lanes in a hazardous manner. As for drivers who do not show any respect for pedestrians, police have so far demonstrated no sympathy for the latter. Drivers who ignore basic safety standards for occupants of the car are driving, like the use of safety belts for children, never get stopped for traffic violation citations. As for the vehicles that emit dangerous fumes all around, we have never seen one such car, truck or bus stopped for even a warning. So what is the sense of dishing out points to drivers if the serious violations never get noticed, much less prosecuted?

We have to get more serious with this chronic crisis on our roadways by educating the traffic personnel on where and how to channel their campaigns. Speeding and illegal parking seem to be the only two traffic violations that attract their attention. It is high time that our authorities broaden their horizons so that the most serious violations are recorded and dealt within in a meaningful way.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

Al Arab Al Yawm's Daoud Qarnah criticised the Vatican over its open bias towards the Jews citing the Pope's sermon on Good Friday as a clear sign of support for and a vindication of the Jews actions throughout history. The writer said the Pope told the congregation that the Jews are not alone responsible for the crucifixion of Jesus but rather all Christian people. The Pope who absolved the Jews of Christ's death and who blamed the Christians for the Nazi crimes and the Holocaust is expressing sympathy towards the Jews but not the Palestinian Christians who are constantly persecuted at the hands of the Jews in Palestine, said the writer. The Vatican has no right to distort history and change the facts, blaming the Christians for the massacres allegedly committed against the Jews, he said. Recent research has proved that the Zionists have been instrumental in the massacres committed in Europe against the Jews with the purpose of forcing them to emigrate to Palestine, according to the writer. He said the European Jews living in Palestine are not Semites but are persecuting the Arab Semites both Christians and Muslims. He said the Pope should not forget the suffering of the Palestinian people and should not turn a blind eye to Israel's atrocities.

Al Ra'i's Sultan Al Hattab reflected on the recent crimes committed in Jordan saying that they are distorting the country's image of being an oasis of security and stability amidst a turbulent region. The writer said Jordanian society is duty bound to provide the security services with the means and the power to deal with such crimes as those committed in Shmeisani and Rabieh districts. The budgets available to the security institutions are not sufficient to allow them to acquire sophisticated equipment enabling them to deal with complex crimes or to deter criminals, according to the writer. He said it is time for the country to help the police to try to abort crimes or at least deal effectively and promptly with their consequences in an age where criminals have become experts and have access to sophisticated weapons. The writer said the police authorities should be helped by the public and through the acquisition of modern technological equipment to ensure social defence and protect society from criminals.

Washington Watch

Zionist Organisation of America seeks to deny Deir Yassin massacre

THIS IS an article I never thought I would have to write. Fifty years after the Zionist terrorist groups Irgun and Lehi (Stern Gang) committed a massacre in the Arab village of Deir Yassin, the president of the Zionist Organisation of America (ZOA), Morton Klein, is waging a campaign in the United States denying that a massacre took place. Not unlike the historical revisionists who deny the Holocaust, Klein's work "Deir Yassin: History of a Lie" has the appearance of scholarship. It is heavily footnoted, and documented and relentlessly plods through every quote and claim made about the events at Deir Yassin. Klein's methods are similar to the Holocaust deniers. He uses half quotes, specious arguments and ad hominem attacks in an effort to confound an ordinary reader. He admits what cannot be denied, but minimises its importance. In the end he claims that Deir Yassin was only a minor but necessary skirmish. It was fought, Klein says, to eliminate a hostile Arab presence that was threatening to the Jews of Jerusalem. And its reality, he says, was distorted by a combination of Arab propagandists, Jewish establishment enemies of the Stern and Irgun Gangs, Jewish leftists and the exaggerated boasting of those who were there (whom, he says, only made their claims as a part of their psychological propaganda campaign against the Arabs).

Klein's purpose is larger, of course, than the discrediting of Deir Yassin. He and his movement seek to rewrite history by eliminating from its record one of Zionism's more odious events. Klein knows that the terrorism at Deir Yassin did not stand alone. As modern Israeli historians now acknowledge (and as Arabs have always known), Deir Yassin was but one piece of a concentrated Zionist strategy to terrorise Arabs in order to expel them from the way to depopulating their villages in order to either repopulate them with new Jewish immigrants or to erase them from the map. All this would be frightening enough if Klein were merely a liar and a one who deliberately distorts facts.

But the reality is even more frightening. He is a fanatic true believer for whom Zionism can do no wrong. And Klein is not alone. He heads an organisation, which he has effectively used, to intimidate opponents. By preying on fear, Klein has silenced foes in the media, in politics and even within the Jewish community. He has, over the past decade won minor battles, forcing newspapers to change maps, forcing Jewish organisations to dis-invite

speakers, forcing politicians to change their votes. Now it appears he has trained his guns on a major campaign to erase a massacre from history and intimidate those who would resist. That Klein's efforts must be combated goes without saying. If his campaign accelerates unanswered, he will win, and politicians, the media and even historians may come to question either the fact that a massacre did occur at Deir Yassin or that it was an important component in the effort to terrorise some Palestinians into leaving their homes. In this context, it is important to note that a small but potentially important effort is under way to defend history.

"Deir Yassin Remembered" is a new organisation dedicated to preserving the memory of that outrage by publishing materials, both documentary and commentary, and by constructing a monument to the massacre in the place where the village of Deir Yassin once stood. The founder of "Deir Yassin Remembered," Dan McGowan, a professor at Huhart College in New York, was a guest on my ANA weekly call-in television show "A Capital View." Not only did we have the opportunity to commemorate the massacre and discuss the work of the committee, but the programme also provided several survivors the opportunity to call-in and share their memories with our nation-wide audience.

One caller had been a young girl at the time of the massacre. She described in harrowing detail what she saw and survived. Her grandmother, uncle and two-and-a-half-year-old brother were killed; the rest of her family was forced to flee. Another, a male nurse, recalled seeing survivors, prisoners of war, paraded through Jewish neighbourhoods in Jerusalem. Still another caller reported how these same prisoners were taken to a quarry outside of the village and shot in cold blood.

Beginning next month Arab American organisations will take the campaign one step further. A huge quilt has been created with one large hand-embroidered patch for each of the 418 Palestinian villages destroyed by Israel since 1948. The "Quilt Project" will travel throughout the month of May across the United States. It will be greeted by rallies and events in major U.S. cities. This effort to remember and defend our past is a vital component to the struggle to create justice in the future.

The ZOA effort to deny and rewrite history is a continuation of the Zionist campaign to deny not only justice to the Palestinians, but their very history and existence as

well. Deir Yassin was a massacre. There are too many witnesses, Arab, Jewish, and European to deny that fact. But it was more than that; it was a deliberate act of terrorism with a clear political objective. It was callously used. After the massacre, Haganah sound trucks drove through Arab areas warning "unless you leave your homes, the fate of Deir Yassin will be your fate." As Menachem Begin himself declared in the The Revolt, "Arabs throughout the country, induced to believe wild tales of 'Irgun butchery' were seized with limitless panic and started to flee for their lives. This mass flight soon developed into a maddened, uncontrolled stampede. Of the almost 800,000 who lived on the present territory of the State of Israel, only some 165,000 are still there."

The political and economic significance of this development can hardly be overestimated. It was an offensive campaign to conquer Arab land and depopulate (now called "ethnic cleansing") Arab villages. Noted David Ben Gurion in his Rebirth and Destiny of Israel, "Until the British left (May 15, 1948) no Jewish settlement, however remote, was entered or seized by the Arabs, while the Haganah... captured many Arab positions and liberated Tiberia, and Haifa, Jaffa, and Safad.... So on the day of destiny, that part of Palestine where the Haganah could operate was almost clear of Arabs." Add to this, the admission of Yitzhak Rabin that he ordered the forced expulsion of 40,000 Arabs from the Palestinian village of Lydda. Said Rabin, "The inhabitants of Lydda must be expelled quickly without attention to age... implement immediately." The same has been admitted by Yigal Allon, who headed the Palmach. His goal, he wrote was "the need to clean the upper Galilee of Arabs." His tactic was to use fear and terror to force Arabs to flee. Forced expulsions and terrorism defined the Palestinian exodus of 700,000. Ethnic cleansing and erasing villages defined the formation of the Jewish state in 1948. This we have always known. This some Israelis now admit. And this is what Klein and his Likud cohorts now seek to deny. Fifty years later in the midst of a dying peace process, the ZOA seeks to deny and intimidate others into denying these historic facts so as to continue to deny justice to the Palestinians in their ancestral homeland. To demand justice, we must defend the past.

Arabs in America strike 2 blows for justice

By George S. Hishmeh
Special to the Jordan Times

WASHINGTON — Whether it is explaining circumstances of Palestinian dispossession during the "Israel-at-50" anniversary celebrations here or attempting to establish a school that teaches Islam and Arabic, Arab-Americans and their supporters encounter seemingly insurmountable hurdles but, with titanic perseverance, the rewards could be sometimes heady.

Two cases in point were illustrated in the Washington area this month: the first exposing the massacre 50 years ago by Zionist terrorists of Palestinian villagers on the outskirts of Jerusalem, and the second dealing with the attempt of the Islamic Saudi Academy, a 13-year-old kindergarten-to-high school institution here, to relocate into the Washington suburbs.

In the first, the Zionist Organisation of America went on the offensive and distributed a brochure earlier this month in which its national president, Morton A. Klein, denied "the lie of the Deir Yassin massacre."

Similarly, bigots in American society did their utmost to stop the expansion of a Saudi-sponsored school for 1,200 students which has been accredited by the State of Virginia. They succeeded the first time. But when the academy chose another site the detractors were unsuccessful despite the long protracted fight.

The vote, in favour of the new location in Loudoun County by the Board of Supervisors, was 7-2.

Both issues were featured on the pages of the Washington Post this month. In the case of Deir Yassin, a student organisation at Georgetown University called the Arab Club, managed to place a full-page advertisement which minced no words about how "two underground militias entered (on April 9, 1948) a sleeping village and massacred over 100 men, women and children" and then loaded onto trucks 25 male villagers who were shot to death at a stone quarry after parading them through the Jewish sections of Jerusalem.

The unprecedented advertisement continued in blunt language: Deir Yassin was thus "wiped off the map, and the Yad Veshem Holocaust Memorial was built across from the site of the massacre." The state of Israel was born "on the ruins of Palestinian villages and the remnants of Palestinian lives."

In graphic detail, the student ad maintained: "The massacre of Deir Yassin at the hands of Zionist militias is forever etched in the collective memory of the Palestinian people, a tragic link in a continuous chain of dispossession. Between 1947 and 1949, 418 Palestinian villages were destroyed. Over 750,000 people were forced to flee from their homes. These people became the Palestinian refugees — four million today — without a name, without a face, without a home, without a country."

A call for "repentance" was urged by the Arab Club, whose student membership is now anticipating an inquiry from the university administration, particularly over how they raised \$22,500 for the advertisement, which is about half the average rate of a similar advertisement.

Vice President Al Gore and "all those who are going to Israel to celebrate its fiftieth anniversary" were urged "to remember, as they celebrate, the haunting memory and the restless souls of the victims of Deir Yassin. The U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum was asked "to commemorate the ethnic cleansing perpetrated against the Palestinian people."

Several Arab-American leaders were pleased that the Post carried the advertisement although the students were, typically, subjected to a probing inquiry by the Post about the authenticity of the account and the quotations attributed to former Israeli Defence Minister Moshe Dayan and Jewish philosopher Martin Buber.

Khalil Jahshan, president of the National Association of Arab-Americans, conceded that the publication of the advertisement created a sensation but, he continued, "there was no controversy about its contents."

He recalled that Arab-American groups usually "go through hell to prove" to the advertising departments the accuracy of the contents. "They [the newspapers] are petrified to go with a 'pro-Arab' ad or one that is critical of Israel... to avoid any clash with the Jewish community because usually the repercussions have commercial significance."

Sometimes, he continued, "they surprise us."

Other leaders who spoke on condition of anonymity, explained that oftentimes the Arab-American community is not sufficiently daring to pursue its grievances. But, more importantly the community does not have the funds to sustain an effective advertising campaign.

The case of the Islamic Saudi Academy and its battle with its die-hard opponents was the cover story of the Post's magazine last Sunday. In fact, the sympathetic article which ran over several pages, reported that there are 30 mosques in the Washington area.

There have been struggles with diversity in the Washington suburbs, especially in some long-insulated towns nearby, the Post reported. It mentioned that five years ago a Racial Harmony Committee was formed in one town as a result of racial clashes in school and in the hope of turning diversity into an asset.

Anthony Nozzoli, a consultant hired by the Embassy of Saudi Arabia in Washington to oversee the project, said in an interview that he was impressed that the Saudi school had won the support of both the Jewish community and all the churches there except the one where the pastor said he was against the project because of the way Christians are treated in Saudi Arabia.

LETTERS

Useful and helpful reporting

To the editor:

I AM writing this letter to congratulate Ms. Amy Henderson on her article, "Travel agents open fire on transportation companies," (Jordan Times, April 13, 1998) and to thank her for such an excellent piece of investigative reporting. I am sure that this article will prove very useful, not only to students of economics like myself but to consumers and market players nationwide.

Some of the statements obtained by Ms. Henderson from market operators will be extremely helpful in fighting monopolistic practices in Jordan in the coming months, especially after the Draft Antitrust Law is ratified by Parliament, which should be soon. Furthermore, the article will prove to be educational when, in the next weeks, both the operator and regulator become

more acquainted with antitrust legislation.

Unfortunately, in the absence of such legislation, the collusive (cartel-like) behaviour of the bus companies remains legal, thus causing harm to the tourism industry as a whole. One disadvantage of not having an antitrust law is that many of these monopolistic cases go unreported or are not archived which is another reason for making Ms. Henderson's article a winner.

I would also like to add that the most famous cases of antitrust legislation in the U.S. were in the area of transportation and applied to situations that were similar to the one reported in the article. Thank you Ms. Henderson and keep up the good work.

Dr. Yusuf Mansur
Amman

Whether to laugh or cry

To the editor:

HAVING LOOKED at and read the advertisement displayed in the Jordan Times (April 14, 1998) by the Greater Amman Municipality, I did not know whether to laugh or cry... If this is the original form that was presented to the editors, and I highly suspect it is, then shouldn't the editors know better? Even if, for any reason, this did escape the attention of the editors, your readers do

deserve an apology or an explanation.

For a long time now, our only English-language daily has been moving steadily forward. The appearance of such a poorly written and composed advertisement is disgraceful and warrants your immediate attention. I am positive that all your readers are looking forward to your speedy response regarding this "Announcement."

Mona Mehregani
Amman

'Eyesore'

To the editor:

I DON'T like to be critical, but because the standard of English in your paper is high, and the writing is good, it is an eyesore when you have an announcement on the front page that is full of errors — it only brings down the image of a fine paper... I call

your attention to the advertisement placed by the Municipality of Greater Amman. It would only take a few seconds for you to correct some of these glaring mistakes before the paper goes to press.

Bob Robertson
Amman

Editor's note: The Jordan Times does owe its readers both an apology and an explanation for running the advertisement mentioned in the two letters above. While we hope our apology will be accepted by all our readers (and not only by the two writers and the many other readers who called us with protests yesterday), we would like to explain that such mistakes have been, and will probably continue to be unavoidable. Some ads we use are already pre-designed and sent to us on film. Some advertisers and advertising agencies insist the customer is always right, meaning we should use in a position to spot them in time for our printing deadline. We tend to think sometimes that it is not so easy to produce an English-language newspaper in a predominantly non-English speaking environment. Under such conditions, the best that we or

The Jordan Times welcomes letters and contributions from its readers on any issue they wish to tackle. Letters intended for publication should contain the writer's full name and preferably address as well. Names can be withheld upon request but only under special circumstances. Letters are subject to editing and abridging.

World
Features
'Flexible'
Palestine
Mordechai
Following are excerpts from an interview
with Israeli Minister of Defence Yitzhak
Rabin conducted by Jordan Times
reporter Ali A. Fakhri in Tel Aviv
on the Palestinian-Israeli track.

On the Palestinian-Israeli track
Three months ago you said that if
there is no movement on the peace track
you will resign — what's happened with the
peace track? I think after that statement our
country decided to respect the 2nd Intifada
and to draw a map that shows the
territory and what we call national
interests, but at the same time the Peace
Track is still there. There are reports that
you are talking about the 2nd Intifada
and there is also a 14th that will be
conducted in the future. Is that true?
I don't want to talk about any per cent
of the negotiations. But I would like
to say that both sides become a little bit
more flexible. I think that the peace
track is still there. I think there are
many more things to be done.
But for instance, (Prime Minister
Rabin) has made statements that he is
going to give nine per cent, and the
Palestinians made statements that they
will give 13 per cent. What's the difference?
The difference is the security, because
there are Israeli villages, Palestinian
villages, there are refugee camps, roads, etc.
The problems are very complex and
must be divided this way or that way.
Each per cent has a lot of problems.
The 2 per cent difference makes a big
problem for Israel.
What 2 per cent are you talking about?
Netanyahu, for instance, said he
didn't want to go into details. I think the
same and Ariel (Ariel) Sharon and
Sharon and I worked very hard for
seven days to find a way how to
reach a peace process.
Recently Netanyahu was calling for
final status talks, and if the second
Intifada happens then immediately we
will have final status issues.
All it needs to first pass the security
employment and then to sit with the
other side and sign an agreement with the
other side. That is the main problem and
I think that. From the first day of the
agreement they understood that the
agreement was very difficult.
Where consensus within the Knesset
there will not necessarily be a third
Intifada.
We think it is necessary to discuss

Israel
By Howard Goller
Reuters
— Israel's legendary odd
couple Peres and Yitzhak
Rabin see each other, even
their offices in Tel Aviv are
near apart.
Country they helped create
the two side surviving for-
mer enemies stand as divid-
ing line. Like fellow Israelis, they
are eye-to-eye on issues of
peace-making.
Rabin insists they'll have
a "peace process" in the
main stage of Israeli
history, having lost elec-
tion interviews granted to
years of stewardship, which
ended in under the Hebrew
of their views of Israel's
past and present and
only for the future.
Rabin's unequivocal dis-
missal of the present holder of
the job, 43-year-old Likud
Minister Benjamin Netanyahu.
On a curve had dif-
ficulties for his part in seeking
the Palestinian.
Sharon, 82, Likud
leader from 1983-84 and
remembered as a mili-
tary leader of the land of Israel. Au-

Daily Beat

A review of news from the Arabic Press

Ekbal printing firm to distribute dividends at a rate of 11 per cent

AL EKBAL Printing and Packaging Company will be distributing JD606,200 to shareholders following an approval from the general assembly to distribute dividends at a rate of 11 per cent. The company posted JD4 million of sales last year and generated a JD849,300 operational profit.

The net profit amounted to JD578,656 compared to JD98,959 posted in 1996, the company's annual report for 1997 showed. It said that the total of shareholders' equity increased from JD3.88 million in 1996 to JD5.6 million at the end of last year.

Board Chairman Tawfiq Fakhouri told the general assembly that the company

bought new equipment and machinery from Germany and Switzerland to equip the new permanent printing press which was in full operational situation in mid-March. He said that the new company buildings in Naur were completed and that the marketing and sales sections were consolidated within a plan to open branches for the company in Arab markets.

Mr. Fakhouri added that the company bought a special machine designed specifically for printing cigarette packs in order to meet the increasing volume of work and the size of contracts signed with some cigarette companies (Al Rai + Al Dostour + Al Aswaq).

Marketing problems delay launching of industry to produce baby food

THERE ARE negotiations with investors from the United Arab Emirates and Germany to set up a plant for producing baby food in Jordan, Board chairman of the Arab International Food Factories told an ordinary session of the general assembly. He stressed that the main concern is on marketing and finding sale outlets for the product.

Chairman Abdullah Abu Khadijeb said the company did not process or import any amount of baby food due to the operational loss incurred when two shipments of baby food could not be sold by the company in the Jordanian market.

To avoid any possible initial losses from the marketing problem, the company

resorted to buying buses and purchasing shares in sister firms. Consequently, the company generated JD556,510 of earnings which translated into an after tax JD112,153 net profit after taking operational and other costs into consideration.

According to the annual report, the company's current assets stood at JD4.24 million at the end of last year out of JD6.35 million of total assets.

Mr. Abu Khadijeb assured the general assembly that the company has opted to postpone any decision on setting up a baby food factory in order to safeguard the investments of the shareholders and to avoid taking any risk that could entail the loss of funds.

United Arab Shipping forms alliance with German, Korean firms

KUWAIT CITY (AFP) — The United Arab Shipping Company (UASC) has announced that it has formed an alliance with the maritime freight companies DSR-Senator of Germany and Hanjin and Cho Yang of South Korea.

"The four partners will operate under the name United Alliance under an agreement to coordinate their activities in container transport worldwide," a statement by UASC said.

UASC, based in Kuwait, belongs to Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Bahrain, the United Arab Emirates, Qatar, and Iraq.

The coordination will include sharing of routes, and joint arrangements at ports "to provide more competitive services to clients," the statement said.

The four allied companies, which have a total of 93 ships, each with over seven trans-Pacific links, two trans-Atlantic links, four links between Europe and Asia, and two within the Mediterranean.

The new alliance is the second in the Gulf region, following a partnership launched last year by the National Shipping Company of Saudi Arabia, the world's second largest oil transporter, and the French Compagnie Maritime d'Affrètement. The alliances, which seek to reduce operating costs through a more effective use of routes, come after shipping tariffs dropped in 1997 due to an oversupply of ships serving the Gulf.

RJ decides to modernise fleet and boost global network

By Ghaila Alul
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The debt-ridden Royal Jordanian (RJ) has decided to sell its five TriStar aircraft operating on long-haul routes as part of efforts to modernise the airline's fleet and boost its global network.

RJ President Nader Dahabi told reporters Monday.

"There is a potential buyer... The reason behind RJ's decision to sell the TriStar aircraft is purely economic," he said.

Mr. Dahabi earlier said that the national carrier will replace its ageing TriStar aircraft with new generation of European Airbus, starting June.

Last year, RJ paid the final installment on its five TriStar aircraft leased for the past 10 years from Banque Indosuez.

Officials earlier said the \$60 million TriStars were the only ones owned by RJ which has a fleet of 17 aircraft.

Mr. Dahabi told reporters that RJ, which is preparing for privatisation, has invited legal and financial advisors to evaluate the situation.

"Bids by these experts will be reviewed at the end of the month before taking further steps toward privatisation [expected to take up to 18 months]," he added.

Plans to privatise RJ, saddled with debts of over \$846 million mainly from

aircraft leases, were first floated in 1988 but held back due to a host of bureaucratic and financial reasons.

According to Mr. Dahabi, RJ is undergoing a six-month legal and financial restructuring programme which will help put it on a more profitable and a sounder administrative footing before it can operate on commercial basis.

RJ operations are currently heavily subsidised by the government.

He said an expert from the World Bank is attending RJ's meetings and has submitted a study to the Jordanian government for privatisation, to which the government is committed.

Israeli tycoon to set up investment fund in Israeli-Arab companies

TEL AVIV (AFP) — Israel's leading business baron, Benny Gaon, plans to launch a \$100 million fund for investing in joint Israeli-Arab companies to build peace after he leaves the Koor conglomerate this summer.

Mr. Gaon, 63, has confirmed that he will step down as the head of Koor, Israel's biggest industrial

group with 21,000 employees, in July.

But he has no plans to retire quietly.

Mr. Gaon said in a statement that he hopes to "privatise peace" with a fund to start up joint Israeli-Arab companies as a way to build regional cooperation. "The only thing capable of consolidating peace."

The top businessman, who refused to give details of the project, has for many years been an ardent supporter of the Israeli-Arab peace process.

The president of the Industrialists Association, Dan Propper, who proposed Mr. Gaon to head a special commission to develop relations with

Arab countries, has strongly endorsed Mr. Gaon's abilities for building regional cooperation.

"He could make an important contribution to strengthening commercial ties with the Arab World thanks to his experience and his relations with the Palestinian National Authority and neighbouring countries," Mr.

Propper said recently.

Mr. Gaon has repeatedly sought to build regional business ties participating in numerous economic conferences and in delegations of Israeli businessmen visiting such countries as Jordan, Egypt, Morocco and the Gulf Arab states.

In 1996, like most Israeli business chiefs, Mr. Gaon supported Labour's Shimon Peres for prime minister.

Since the right-wing government of Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu took office, Mr. Gaon has been a leading critic of Mr. Netanyahu's approach to the peace process.

He has charged that Mr. Netanyahu's "intransigent" policies could scare off foreign investors from putting money into the Israeli economy.

On the business front, Mr. Gaon has built himself a reputation for saving floundering enterprises.

When he took over Koor 10 years ago, it was part of the massive Histadrut labour union's empire and almost bankrupt with debts of \$1.5 billion.

To rescue the group, he fired thousands of employees, got rid of its least profitable activities, and balanced the books without losing the conglomerate's greatest assets, such as the civil and military electronics firm Tadiran.

Koor's net profits fell by 22 per cent last year but the conglomerate still earned \$138 million on turnover of \$3.5 billion.

The success of the turnaround encouraged the U.S. Claridge finance group, controlled by Canada's wine and spirits group Seagram, to buy 28 per cent of Koor last year.

But the arrival of the new partner also marked the end of the Gaon era at Koor as Claridge appointed Jonathan Kolber to succeed him.

"In an airplane, there can only be one pilot and the strongest shareholder has the right to fly the plane," Mr. Gaon said recently.

REUTERS The Business of Information

Major Currencies & Cross Rates									
Currency	USD	DEM	GBP	CHF	JPY	CAD	ITL	NLG	FRF
US Dollar	1.0000	1.8028	0.8353	1.4894	129.20	1.4341	1783.30	2.0518	6.0482
DE Mark	0.5547	1.0000	0.5329	0.6567	71.66	0.7951	988.08	1.1261	3.3610
GB Sterling	1.6950	3.0393	1.0000	2.5119	217.81	2.4165	3003.22	3.4220	10.1834
CH Franc	0.6714	1.2058	0.3976	1.0000	96.64	0.9617	1194.79	136.14	4.0613
JP Yen	0.0077	1.3948	0.4588	1.1623	1.0000	1.1086	13.77	157.10	4.6712
CA Dollar	0.6973	1.2916	0.4226	1.0699	1.11	1.0000	1270.80	1.4551	4.3265
IT Lira	0.0006	1.0128	0.3332	0.0837	1379.12	0.0887	1.11	3.3820	3.3820
NL Guilder	0.4922	0.6777	0.2921	0.7340	63.67	0.7062	876.32	1.141	2.5736
FR Franc	0.1653	0.2984	0.0981	0.1408	24.6599	0.1537	33.60	33.6000	1.0000

Middle Eastern Currencies									
Currency	USD	JOD	SAR	BAH	QAT	KUW	AED	LBP	EGP
US Dollar	1.0000	0.7090	3.7504	0.3770	3.6400	0.3054	3.6727	1528.80	3.4025
Jordan Dinar	1.4104	1.0000	5.2897	0.5317	5.1340	0.4307	5.1801	2155.85	4.7990
Saudi Riyal	0.2666	0.1890	1.0000	0.1005	0.97	0.0814	0.98	407.58	0.9072
Bahraini Dinar	2.65	1.8808	9.4848	1.0000	9.66	0.8101	9.74	4054.70	9.0289
Qatar Dinar	0.2747	0.1948	1.0303	1.0303	1.0000	0.0839	1.01	419.52	0.9348
Kuwait Dinar	3.2744	2.3215	12.0031	1.2343	11.92	1.0000	12.03	5004.91	5.0348
Emirate Dinar	0.2723	0.1930	1.0212	1.0108	0.9911	0.0832	1.00	416.18	0.9284
Lebanese 1000	0.65	0.4639	2.4636	0.2466	2.3814	0.1998	2.4028	1.141	2.2260
Egyptian	0.2839	0.2084	1.1022	0.1108	1.0688	0.0888	1.0794	443.23	1.0000

Energy									
Oil	Unit	Price	Oil	Unit	Price	Oil	Unit	Price	Oil
Brent	13.27	13.27	Brent	13.27	13.27	Brent	13.27	13.27	Brent
W. Texas	13.29	13.31	W. Texas	13.29	13.31	W. Texas	13.29	13.31	W. Texas
Bonny	13.27	13.27	Bonny	13.27	13.27	Bonny	13.27	13.27	Bonny
Dubai	11.69	11.92	Dubai	11.69	11.92	Dubai	11.69	11.92	Dubai
UL Gas	163.00	163.00	UL Gas	163.00	163.00	UL Gas	163.00	163.00	UL Gas

JOD Cross Rates									
Currency	Buy	Sell	Currency	Buy	Sell	Currency	Buy	Sell	Currency
US Dollar	0.708	0.710	US Dollar	0.708	0.710	US Dollar	0.708	0.710	US Dollar
GB Sterling	1.1795	1.1864	GB Sterling	1.1795	1.1864	GB Sterling	1.1795	1.1864	GB Sterling
DE Mark	0.3685	0.3904	DE Mark	0.3685	0.3904	DE Mark	0.3685	0.3904	DE Mark
CH Franc	0.4688	0.4711	CH Franc	0.4688	0.4711	CH Franc	0.4688	0.4711	CH Franc
FR Franc	0.1158	0.1164	FR Franc	0.1158	0.1164	FR Franc	0.1158	0.1164	FR Franc
JP Yen	0.5432	0.5469	JP Yen	0.5432	0.5469	JP Yen	0.5432	0.5469	JP Yen
NL Guilder	0.3448	0.3468	NL Guilder	0.3448	0.3468	NL Guilder	0.3448	0.3468	NL Guilder
IT Lira	0.383	0.386	IT Lira	0.383	0.386	IT Lira	0.383	0.386	IT Lira

Main Equity Indices									
Bourse	Index	Value	Chng	% Chng	High	Low	Pr Cls	Bourse	Index
New York	DOW JONES	9088.53	76.23	0.85	9095.28	9013.8	9012.3	New York	DOW JONES
New York	S&P 500	1113.13	3.44	0.31	1114.08	1109.83	1109.83	New York	S&P 500
London	FT-SE 100	6101.6	-3.3	-0.05	6105.0	6083.2	6105.5	London	FT-SE 100
Tokyo	NIKKEI 225	16277.32	-40.28	-0.25	16414.1	16188.4	16177.8	Tokyo	NIKKEI 225
Paris	CAC 40	3961.68	-26.82	-0.68	3961.68	3967.65	3964.40	Paris	CAC 40
Frankfurt	DAX	5374.78	57.58	1.08	5411.07	5374.08	5377.22	Frankfurt	DAX

ASIAN FINANCIAL MARKET										
HOUSING BANK CENTER AMMAN - JORDANIAN										
TELEPHONE: 607131 / 607119										
ORGANIZED MARKET SHARE PRICE LIST FOR TUESDAY 14/04/1998										
PAST 12 MONTHS HIGH	PAST 12 MONTHS LOW	COMPANY'S NAME	P / E	DIV. %	NO. OF SHARES	NO. OF SHARES TRADED	VALUE TRADED JD	OPEN PRICE	CLOSE PRICE	CHANGE
350.000	251.000	ARAB BANK	24.1	1.6	2	40	13760	344.00	344.00	-
2.340	1.660	JOR. NATIONAL BK.	2	0.00	2	1000	1740	1.75	1.74	-0.01
S 2.680	1.650	INDUSTRIAL DEV. BK.	9.2	7.88	3	2800	5031	1.82	1.79	-0.03
4.650	4.650	THE HOUSING BK.	16.8	2.71	3	5000	26600	5.35	5.32	-0.03
4.180	1.810	JOR. KOWAT BANK	8	0.00	7	4647	7885	1.81	1.80	-0.01
920	590	JOR. GULF BANK	4.1	10.14	12	13574	9232	0.68	0.69	+0.01
4.020	1.800	JOR. ISLAMIC BANK	15.0	0.00	10	1150	2047	1.80	1.77	-0.03
3.900	1.800	JOR. INV. FUND BANK	11.2	0.00	10	1300	2271	1.80	1.75	-0.05
2.350	1.610	JOR. INV. FUND BANK/NEW	5	0.00	3	354	573	1.62	1.62	-
1.400	800	BEIT AL-MAL (BEITNA)	5	17.24	3	1100	947	0.86	0.87	+0.01
BANK SECTOR TOTALS			INDEX: 239.18	CHNG: -0.17	50	30782	70206			
2.400	1.590	JOR. FRENCH INSUR.	6.1	11.47	9	5150	11013	2.13	2.18	+0.05
INSURANCE SECTOR TOTALS			INDEX: 122.95	CHNG: +0.24	9	5150	11013			
2.220	1.550	JOR. ELECTRIC PWR.	10.6	4.55	19	11100	24679	2.22	2.20	-0.02
7.500	3.200	VEHICLES OWNERS FND.	12.5	3.95	1	100	304	3.20	3.04	-0.16
1.550	960	NATL. PORTFOLIO	43.1	0.00	3	750	810	1.08	1.08	-
1.090	900	TAXI EDUCATION	17.0	0.00	2	2000	1940	0.96	0.97	+0.01
1.830	1.510	UNIFIED CO.	6.5	7.53	34	10750	15928	1.52	1.46	-0.06
SERVICE SECTOR TOTALS			INDEX: 119.42	CHNG: -0.30	59	24700	43661			
4.450	2.690	JOR. CEMENT FACT.	17.3	3.77	20	6301	18523	2.89	2.92	+0.03
11.150	9.200	JOR. PETRO. REFINERY	10.6	8.12	13	8691	95889	10.87	10.95	+0.08
6.700	4.500	JORDAN TANNING	8.8	7.27	1	252	1386	5.55	5.50	-0.05
1.450	1.040	WOOLLEN INDUSTRIES	12.6	6.90	3	600	874	1.45	1.45	-
2.330	1.100	INDUSTRIAL CONGR. AGR.	9	0.00	2	339	407	1.25	1.20	-0.05
5.700	3.440	ARAB PHARM. MANF.	14.7	3.72	91	14285	184948	5.27	5.17	-0.10
1.530	1.020	JOR. PIPES MANFACT.	11.1	7.46	4	2850	3835	1.34	1.34	-
1.420	770	RAFIA INDUSTRIES	9	0.00	3	8500	6395	0.78	0.80	+0.02
6.250	4.400	OAK ALUMINA DV. IND.	7.0	5.98	2	69	404	5.85	5.85	-
570	400	LIVESTOCK & POULTRY	16.9	0.00	51	69200	35073	0.50	0.50	-
1.110	670	ARAB PAPER CONV. TRD.	21.7	0.00	7	13750	9724	0.70	0.71	+0.01
620	510	NATIONAL INDS.	9	0.00	2	6000	3240	0.55	0.54	-0.01
810	370	ARAB FOOD & BEV.	9	0.00	28	2650	10224	0.40	0.38	-0.02
690	500	JOR. ROCKWELL INDS.	9	0.00	2	12000	6560	0.55	0.53	-0.02
2.240	1.380	UNIV. CHEM. INDS.	14.2	5.76	4	350	482	1.42	1.39	-0.03
3.000	1.920	NATL. CABLE WIRE MPAC	27.4	0.00	9	8900	10147	1.14	1.14	-
780	530	JOR. SULPHUR CHEM.	9	0.00	4	1200	686	0.57	0.57	-
1.560	1.150	ARAB PHARM. CHEM.	14.7	4.51	8	1701	2256	1.36	1.33	-0.03
1.540	810	UNIV. NOD. INDS.	14.4	6.67	9	3500	3150	0.92	0.90	-0.02
1.230	680	JOR. INDS. RESOURCES	9.1	17.71	19	10922	7446	0.68	0.68	-
1.620	1.350	NATL. CELEBRITY	10.2	6.89	6	2300	3358	1.47	1.46	-0.01
1.080	810	JOR. NEW CABLE CO.	14.2	9.90	3	6513	6545	1.02	1.01	-0.01
1.280	920	INTL. TOBACCO	4.5	0.00	7	700	124	0.97	0.97	-
1.250	1.080	INTL. TOBACCO	6.5	0.00	1	200	736	1.18	1.18	-
1.220	860	UNION CH. & VEG.	48.6	0.00	25	12250	13282	1.08	1.07	-0.01
860	500	INDUSTRIAL STEEL	9.3	13.77	9	6545	3847	0.83	0.83	-
790	570	NIO-EAST COMPLEX	7.4	16.67	25	53300	32491	0.63	0.60	-0.03
INDUSTRIAL SECTOR TOTALS			INDEX: 110.77	CHNG: -0.17	362	337692	497110			
GRAND TOTAL			INDEX: 169.82	CHNG: -0.06	480	398324	621998			
PARALLEL MARKET SHARE PRICE LIST FOR TUESDAY 14/04/1998										
N 1.050	910	EXPORT & FIN. BKR. 75%	16.8	0.00	1	200	132	91	91	-
530	340	JOR. TRADE FA. 75%	9	0.00	7	20250	8103	41	41	-
860	560	UNION INV. 50%	9	0.00	33	110342	28688	76	76	-
360	260	ARAB FIN. INVEST.	9	0.00	15	23460	9676	41	41	-
290	120	JOR. INDS. MATCH-JENCO	9	0.00	5	10050	3207	13	13	-
640	370	ARAB FOOD & MED.	9	0.00	2	500	233	46	47	+0.01
470	240	ARAB INTL. INV. TRD.	46.1	0.00	62	21400	8772	38	40	+0.02
750	360	NATL. MULT. ENG. MANICO	9	0.00	9	12500	4625	18	17	-0.01
520	400	ARAB ELECT. INDS.	9	0.00	1	2000	880	44	44	-
580	490	MIDWEST PHARM. 90%	9	0.00	1	50	26	63	62	-0.01
1.650	860	UNION TOBACCO 75%	9	0.00	30	3200	3014	63	63	-0.01
730	550	RAZI PHARM.	9	0.00	5	27500	18975	69	69	-
240	160	INDS. ENG.	9	0.00	8	10000	2800	28	28	-
830	490	INDS. CERAMIC	10.1	0.00	1	1000	590	49	49	-
660	370	PEARL SAN. P. CONV.	9	0.00	3	600	240	40	40	-
430	240	NATL. ROUL. 75%	9	0.00	10	10600	4935	46	46	-0.02
N 950	470	OPTICALS HEARING 75%	9	0.00	1	30	59	46	46	-
N 1.000	660	NAT. ALUMINIUM. 75%	46.2	0.00	9	16200	7310	69	70	-0.01
1.000	660	COFFRAB 75%	46.2	0.00	9	16200	7310	1.05	1.05	-0.01
N 1.000	750	EXCAL PRINT CO. 75%	12.6	9.13	9	8200	3465	63	63	-
GRAND TOTAL					182	469242	180366			

No FIFA split after tense elections — Johansson

KUALA LUMPUR (AFP) — UEFA President Lennart Johansson said here Tuesday the bitter two-way battle for the presidency of FIFA would not split the world football body.

"I will respect the result of the vote. I will behave as I always have, and I will also see to it that my colleagues in the executive committee do the same," he said.

"I can only speak for myself and the people I represent. I cannot talk about democracy and then disobey the result of the election," he added.

Johansson said he would work with Sepp Blatter, the ruling body's general secretary, should he win.

"If my opponent is elected I have to respect that," he said.

"This is the way I am going to act even in FIFA, whether I am elected or not," the UEFA president said.

"I have no intention whatsoever to

create some sort of a wall.

The situation is bad enough as it is with two European candidates," he went on.

Johansson, who earlier met Asian Football Confederation (AFC) president Sultan Ahmad Shah and the AFC executive committee, is in Malaysia to drum up support for his bid.

But he added: "I am not good in lobbying."

The Swede is involved in a fight with Blatter to succeed Jnan Havelange as FIFA president.

Johansson is scheduled to visit Singapore and Hong Kong on a similar mission. He is accompanied by UEFA vice-president Antonio Matarrese.

Johansson said he welcomed the decision by Blatter to take an eight-week leave-of-absence to contest the election.

"I think it is a fair decision. I con-

gratulate him for that," he said.

Blatter's decision to temporarily stand down came after furious protests from Johansson and his backers.

The UEFA president wanted Blatter to resign immediately on announcing his candidature in Paris last month.

The election scheduled at the FIFA Congress in Paris on June 8, two days before the start of the World Cup.

Voting is open to all 198 national associations of FIFA, except Palestine, who are only provisional members.

Meanwhile, in Bogota, the Colombian federation president Alvaro Fina said the South American countries would back Blatter.

"We see him as being able to continue the work of Joao Havelange," Fina said.

Bergkamp calls the shots as Gunners blitz Blackburn

LONDON (AFP) — Dennis Bergkamp made a dramatic return from suspension as Arsenal continued their surge towards the top of the English Premiership with a crushing 4-1 win at Blackburn on Monday.

The Dutch striker struck a stunning goal after just 75 seconds to set the Gunners on the way to a handsome win that lifted them to within one point of leaders Manchester United with two games in hand.

Bergkamp also created two goals for Ray Parlour in the seventh and 15th minutes as Arsenal Wenger's double-chasers tore apart the Blackburn defence in the opening exchanges.

Frenchman Nicolas Anelka, who scored twice against in Saturday's 3-1 win over Newcastle, continued the rout with a coolly-taken goal for Arsenal's fourth on 42 minutes.

Blackburn grabbed a consolation goal six minutes into the second half when Scotland star Kevin Gallacher lashed a volley into the back of the net from eight yards.

Bergkamp, though, showed why he was recently voted English football's player of the year when he fired the Gunners into an early lead against the last team to beat them in the league — four months ago.

The former Ajax and Inter Milan ace raced clear of the Blackburn defence from a throw-in on the right and drilled a fierce, low shot across goal into the far corner.

Five minutes later, he turned creator when he released Parlour with a perfectly judged pass, allowing the England World Cup



Arsenal striker Nicolas Anelka is tackled by Blackburn Rovers defender Colin Hendry and Jeff Kenna (L). The match is part of the FA Premiership title race (Reuters photo).

hopeful to spring the offside trap and squeeze a shot under keeper Alan Flett.

Arsenal were virtually home and dry after just seven minutes but they continued their assault on the visitors goal and scored a third goal on 15 minutes.

Again Bergkamp was at the centre of action, firing a powerful drive which goalkeeper Alan Flett managed to beat out only for the ball to fall to the unmarked Parlour, who crashed his second into the roof of the net.

The demolition continued shortly before half-time when Nigel Winterburn released Anelka with a superb ball from deep.

The 19-year-old, deputising for the injured Ian Wright, used his electric pace to get away from Blackburn's shell-shocked defence before rounding Flett and slotting his eighth goal of the season.

The second half of the game was played in unseasonal snow.

In other matches, England captain Alan Shearer grabbed a last-gasp winner as Newcastle bagged three vital points with a 2-1 win over fellow strugglers Birmingham.

Kenny Dalglish's side looked to be heading for a

draw when Shearer rose above the Barnsley defence to crash home an unstoppable header from Rob Lee's cross with just three minutes left on the clock.

Earlier, Swedish international striker Andreas Andersson fired his first goal for Newcastle since joining the Magpies from AC Milan in January.

But Barnsley grabbed an equaliser through Jan Aage Fjortoft, before Shearer threw Newcastle a lifeline in their fight against the drop with his dramatic late intervention.

Fellow fallen giants Tottenham remain deep in relegation trouble, though, after they were denied a richly-deserved win in the dying minutes of their home game against mid-table Coventry.

Spurs dominated the game and deservedly took the lead when former Italian international Nicola Bertinotti headed home a header from David Ginola's corner in the 68th minute.

But with just four minutes to go Coventry's Dion Dublin stunned the home fans with an equaliser against the run of play.

Liverpool boosted their title hopes by knocking a place in the European Champions' League by

closing the gap on title rivals Manchester United and Arsenal with a 2-1 win over Crystal Palace.

An 85th-minute winner from substitute David Thompson — his first league goal — secured all three points for Roy Evans's side and left Palace rock bottom of the table and facing almost certain relegation after just one season back in the top flight.

Derby ended their goal drought in style as they crushed relegation-haunted Bolton 4-0 at Pride Park.

Jim Smith's men had gone into the game on the back of four matches without a goal, but goals from Dean Burton (two), Paulo Wanchope and Francesco Baiano rekindled their UEFA Cup hopes.

Sheffield Wednesday came from behind to grab a point in a 1-1 draw at home to West Ham.

Israeli star Eyal Berkovic gave West Ham a seventh-minute lead before Northern Ireland ace Jim Magilton grabbed a second half equaliser against the run of play to ease Wednesday's relegation fears.

In the day's other match Wimbledon and Everton battled to a goalless stalemate at Selhurst Park.

Matsuoka finishes his career at Japan Open tennis

TOKYO (AFP) — Local hero Shuzo Matsuoka bowed out after a 13-year professional career in tennis with a straight-sets defeat to Ivo Heuberger at the Japan Open tennis tournament Tuesday.

Matsuoka, the best male tennis player Japan has produced, failed to revive his golden days, losing his first-round match to the 22-year-old Swiss 3-6, 3-6 in 80 minutes.

Rain postponed matches on the outside courts, forcing the organizers to close the roof of the Ariake Coliseum centre court.

Earlier in the day, sixth-seeded Wang Shi-ting of Taiwan cut the challenge from Japan's Shinobu Asahoe for a 3-6, 6-3, 6-1 win in the women's first round.

"I was very disappointed," said Matsuoka, 30. "I felt

I'm in really good shape and I had expected to reach higher rounds here. I just found I'm a player who always becomes nervous in such an important match."

Matsuoka's serve and volley game, which once saw off former world number ones Pete Sampras and Stefan Edberg, collapsed in the very opening game, and the Japanese was unable to recover from the deficit.

He failed to convert a single break chance out of eight break points — twice a triple chance at 0-40 in the second game and again in the first game of the second set, while Heuberger won his three break chances.

Matsuoka announced in August he would retire after the Japan Open, following a poor performance at Wimbledon last year, where he failed to survive the qualifying round.

"The most memorable tournament for me is the Wimbledon. I reached the quarter-finals in 1995," said Matsuoka.

"But the Japan Open was the biggest stepping stone for me. In 1988, I defeated Miloslav Mecir (1986 US Open finalist from the Czech Republic), who was ranked seventh then, and I played John McEnroe."

"The Japan Open really helped me to move up in the world that year," said Matsuoka, who reached 46th in July 1992.

Matsuoka said he is going to start a new life, helping young players to improve and to expand the sport in the country, partly through two \$15,000 Futures tournaments his new company is to host in Osaka and Fukuoka later this year.

SPORTS IN BRIEF

Sturm Graz seal title

VIENNA (AFP) — Sturm Graz downed Austria Vienna 5-0 on Monday to seal the Austrian League title with seven rounds of matches still remaining.

The win lifted Sturm to 22 points ahead of their local rivals and nearest challengers Graz AK. In 29 matches so far this season, Sturm have recorded 21 wins, seven draws and just a single defeat.

Irish eventer killed in fall

NAVAN, Ireland (AFP) — Ireland's leading event rider David Foster was fatally injured in a fall at a show near his home in County Meath on Monday.

The former army captain was dead on arrival at Navan Hospital after receiving attention from two doctors at the scene. First to go in the cross country phase, Foster suffered massive head and chest injuries when his mount turned over on top of him at the water jump, the sixth obstacle. Foster enjoyed considerable success at international-level eventing and represented Ireland at Olympics.

Newcastle appoint top PR man to repair battered image

NEWCASTLE (AFP) — Newcastle United announced Tuesday that they have brought in a leading public relations figure to improve the club's image in the wake of a series of damaging scandals.

Alistair Wilson, who will be responsible for communications and public affairs, said he hopes he can repair the English Premiership giant's battered reputation.

Newcastle fans are still reeling from allegations surrounding disgraced former directors Freddie Shepherd and Douglas Hall.

The pair quit the Magpies board last month following revelations about their behaviour in a national newspaper that enraged the club's supporters.

The News of the World alleged that Shepherd and Hall mocked fans for buying

expensive replica shirts, bragged about sexual exploits with prostitutes, said local Newcastle girls were 'dogs', referred to star player Alan Shearer as Mary Poppins and boasted they had fooled Manchester United over the seven million pound (\$10.5 million) transfer of Andy Cole.

Wilson, who retired from his post as managing director of Newcastle Breweries to take up the newly created role within the club, described his position as marketing the club within the community and the fans.

The 57-year-old said: "I will be liaising between the football club and the community, of which I'm delighted to be a part, and believe I can improve the perception of the club."

SCOREBOARD

Spanish League	
Betis Seville	2
National League	
San Francisco	1
Philadelphia	1
Florida	7
San Diego	1
Colorado	8
Los Angeles	3
American League	
Boston	6
Cleveland	6
Tampa Bay	1
Kansas City	1
Texas	1

NBA			
Indiana	114	Chicago	105
LA Lakers	99	San Antonio	75
Phoenix	105	Golden State	97
Minnesota	107	LA Clippers	88
English Premiership			
Blackburn	1	Arsenal	4
Derby	4	Bolton	0
Liverpool	2	Crystal Palace	1
Newcastle	2	Barnsley	1
Sheff Wed	1	West Ham	1
Tottenham	1	Coventry	1
Wimbledon	0	Everton	0

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KISS THE GIRLS	DANTELLA (ARABIC)	TITANIC	Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:30, 8:30, 10:30	TITANIC	TITANIC	Don't Laugh Please We're Jordanian
Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30	Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30	Shows: 12:00, 3:00, 7:00, 10:30 p.m.	Adel Imam & Yusra ... in	Shows: 11:00, 2:00, 5:15, 8:30, 12:00	Shows: 3:30, 7:00, 10:30	Starring Hisham Yanes, Amal Dabbas, Rania Kurdi and the group
			RISALA ILA AL WALI	The film is also on at 12:00 a.m. on Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays	The film is also on at 12:00 a.m. on Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays	at 8:30 p.m.
			Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 7:00, 9:00, 11:00			For reservations call: 4640155, 4625155

1st Division Basket

Ahli take on O

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Al Ahli took a 1-0 lead in the first round of the First Division Basketball playoffs on Monday.

The match was part of the two-legged tie between Al Ahli and Al Oudhri. Al Ahli won the first leg 1-0 on Monday.

The second leg will be played on Wednesday at the Al Oudhri home ground.

Al Ahli's victory was a surprise, as they were considered underdogs in the tie.

The match was a closely fought affair, with both teams creating several chances.

Al Ahli's goal was scored in the 15th minute by their star player.

Al Oudhri's manager said his team was disappointed with the result.

He said his team will try to win the second leg to advance to the next round.

The playoffs will continue on Wednesday with the second leg of the tie.

Team	P	W	L
Al Ahli	11	10	1
Al Oudhri	10	9	1
Al Faisaly	11	6	5

Pacers upset

CHICAGO (AP) — Reggie Miller and Jalen Rose scored 22 points each, and the Indiana Pacers forced the Utah Jazz to a 1-1 tie in the first round of the NBA playoffs on Monday.

The Pacers won the first leg 114-105 on Monday night.

The Jazz won the second leg 114-105 on Tuesday night.

The series will be decided in Game 5 on Wednesday.

The Pacers' victory was a surprise, as they were considered underdogs in the tie.

The match was a closely fought affair, with both teams creating several chances.

The Pacers' goal was scored in the 15th minute by their star player.

The Jazz's manager said his team was disappointed with the result.

He said his team will try to win the second leg to advance to the next round.

The playoffs will continue on Wednesday with the second leg of the tie.

Some Pippin scored 28 points and Jordan, who got emotional for throwing the ball at Indiana's Mark Jackson, had 27 — including 10 of 14 at the line.

Lakers 99, Spurs 75: In Los Angeles, Shaquille O'Neal had 28 points and 16 rebounds to lead the Lakers to a fight-marred victory over the cold-shooting Spurs.

With the Lakers leading 99-75 in the fourth quarter, the game was halted.

The U.S. Peace Corps in Jordan is seeking candidates for the long-term contract Arabic Language Coordinator position.

Duties and Responsibilities:

- Develops Arabic language learning and training courses for adult students.
- Assists in the recruitment of Jordanian language teachers and supervisors.
- Teaches Arabic in a total immersion-based format and through personal language training courses.
- Provides lead in structuring and managing an intensive 12-week Arabic language and cultural program.
- Creates and applies more advanced supplementary independent study materials to cover a two-year period.
- Evaluates and assesses language progress and final proficiency of learners; monitors and evaluates the program.
- Establishes and fosters ongoing Jordan-based language teaching and learning programs for Peace Corps Volunteers.

Required:

- Degree in language education and/or a minimum of three years of language experience (any language); usage of methods.
- Total fluency in written and spoken English.
- Supervisory teaching experience.
- Willingness to work for extended periods of time (e.g. 18 months, 2 years).
- Interested candidates should submit a curriculum vitae and cover letter no later than April 25, 1998.

1st Division Basketball Championship Ahli take on Orthodoxi tonight

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Al Ahli meet Al Orthodoxi tonight in the second match of the First Division Basketball Championship playoffs which conclude May 1.

After losing to the two other top teams, Al Ahli are currently third and their ambitions rest upon taking the runner up spot after being ruled out of contention for the title.

Al Ahli beat Al Ahli 78-63 in the first playoff match of the two-round event.

Al Ahli now need to

win the rest of their matches to retain the title they won last year.

Al Ahli had beat Al Orthodoxi 92-84 and Al Ahli 75-69 in the first round which they ended with an unbeaten streak. However, they could only manage a dismal 57-53 win over Al Ahli and lost their only match to Al Orthodoxi 73-69 in the second round.

Last season's runners up Al Ahli are suffering the ill-effects of inadequate pre-season training which led to an inconsistent form. They started training late as they were busier tackling technical obstacles like recruiting

a coach and luring back veterans to the lineup.

Al Orthodoxi finished third last year but have demonstrated that they were in better shape to resume their dominance of the game.

Al Ahli ended a 30-year domination among the two rivals last season. Prior to that Al Orthodoxi had an undisputed reign from 1976-1989, but Al Ahli won the title in 1990, 1992, 1993 and 1994 aided by the signing of Naser Bushnaq.

Al Orthodoxi came back to win in 1991, 1995 and 1996.

Fabled Yankee stadium closes for repairs

NEW YORK (AFP) — Yankee stadium — perhaps the most venerated arena in baseball — was forced to close this week, after a 500-pound hunk of steel fell from the ceiling into the left-field stands.

The steel fragment fell into the stands Monday, about five hours before the Bronx Bombers were scheduled to host the California Angels.

The stadium, which turns 75 years old this week, was empty at the time.

"If somebody had been there at the time the beam came down that person would now be dead," said New York Mayor Rudolph Giuliani.

The seat on which the beam fell was crushed, and there was a 6-inch crater in the concrete. New York City, the Yankees' landlord, ordered the Bronx, New York-arena closed to the public until it is determined there are no further structural defects.

Officials canceled Tuesday's game against the Angels and said Wednesday's matchup might have to be played across town at Shea Stadium — home of New York's rival home-town baseball team, the Mets.

The incident gives ammunition to those who have lobbied for the construction of a new stadium, perhaps in Manhattan.

"Something like this shouldn't happen," Giuliani conceded. "It does indicate the stadium is old."

Juventus and Real Madrid look in command

PARIS (AFP) — Juventus and Real Madrid — two of the greatest names in European football — look to be set for a European Cup final showdown.

Both clubs defend comfortable leads from the first legs in Wednesday's semi-final return matches against under-strength opponents.

Defending champions Borussia Dortmund, who went down 2-0 to Real at the Santiago Bernabeu stadium two weeks ago after crowd trouble delayed the start by 75 minutes, are without three suspended players — defender Julio Cesar, midfielder Steffen Freund and striker Heiko Herrlich.

Swiss international striker Stephane Chapuisat is also in doubt after complaining of tired muscles against Kaiserslautern last Thursday.

The only good news for the German side is the return of midfielders Andy Moller and Jorg Heinrich, who both missed the first leg match with injuries.

Dortmund must rally if they are to play in Europe next season — they have virtually no chance of a UEFA Cup slot.

"Our chances of reaching the final are 50-50," said coach Nevio Scala, in optimistic mood.

Scala will make a late decision on whether Ghanaian striker Ibrahim Tanko, Lars Ricken or Dutchman Harry Decheiver partners Chapuisat in attack — if the Swiss international plays.

Decheiver has a broken toe and has been playing with pain-killing injections. "We know for sure he won't last

the whole match," said Scala.

Monaco, who crashed 4-1 at Juventus two weeks ago, will be without injured defenders Martin Djetou, Muhamed Konjic, Franck Dumas and Christophe Pignol as well as the suspended Francisco Da Costa, who scored their only goals in Turin. With Sylvain Legwinski and Japhet N'Doram long-term casualties and Ludovic Giuly not qualified for European play, they are severely depleted.

The Monaco team were visited at training Monday by Prince Albert, but it was at the same session that Djetou withdrew from the squad.

Monaco do welcome back Scottish international midfielder John Collins from suspension when they try to beat an Italian side in the semi-finals of a European Cup for the first time in four attempts.

Sampdoria, in the 1990 European Cup Winners' Cup, AC Milan in the 1994 Champions' Cup and Inter Milan, in the 1997 UEFA Cup, have all beaten Monaco in the past.

"But you can't abandon hope," said Monaco coach Jean Tigana, who is tipped to take over as French national coach when Aime Jacquet retires after the World Cup.

We matched Juventus for most of the first match but for two doubtful penalties," he added.

Juventus midfielder and France captain Didier Deschamps, suspended for the return, admitted the Italian side had

been lucky with those two spot-kick awards.

"In those sort of cases referees often tend to go with the big side," said Deschamps, who is suspended for the return.

Juventus, with French midfielder star Zinedine Zidane on song, will be aiming to reach the final for the third straight year. The Italian club warmed up with a 2-0 Italian League win over Piacenza and got good news on Monday when goalkeeper Angelo Peruzzi, injured in that game, confirmed he would be fit to play.

Inter's Uruguayan defender Paolo Montero is likely to be out of action with a groin strain.

Real Madrid, without suspended skipper Manuel Sanchis, are desperate to reach their first final since their sixth triumph in 1966, particularly now that they have as good as conceded the Spanish championship to Barcelona.

Borussia played the first leg of the semi-final under protest after the kick-off was delayed when a handful of the 90,000 fans burst through a broken fence behind one goal and dragged down the goal.

Goals from Fernando Morientes and French midfielder Christian Karembeu, with his third goal in as many European Cup games since his transfer from Sampdoria, earned Real Madrid their controversial first-leg win and their two-goal buffer will be difficult for Dortmund to overturn.

PLAYOFF STANDINGS				
Team	W	L	St	Pts
Jazireh	10	0	368	21
Orthodoxi	10	0	337	19
Ahli	10	0	735	17

Pacers upset Bulls in Chicago

CHICAGO (AP) — Reggie Miller and Jalen Rose scored 22 points each, and the Indiana Pacers forced Michael Jordan into 7-of-19 shooting, and beat the Chicago Bulls 114-105 Monday night.

The loss, just the fourth at home in 40 games for Chicago this season, hurts the Bulls' chances of having the league's best overall record and homecourt advantage throughout the playoffs.

Chicago is 60-19 overall to 59-19 for Utah.

The Pacers (56-23), meanwhile, moved one game ahead of Miami in the race for the No. 2 seed in the Eastern Conference. The Bulls already have clinched the top spot in the East.

Scottie Pippen scored 28 points and Jordan, who got a technical foul for throwing the ball at Indiana's Mark Jackson, had 27 — including 12-of-14 at the line.

Lakers 99, Spurs 75: In San Antonio, Shaquille O'Neal had 28 points and 16 rebounds to lead Los Angeles to a fight-marred victory over the cold-shooting Spurs.

With the Lakers leading handily in the fourth quarter, the game was halted

twice in less than 45 seconds for fighting.

Ejected were Will Perdue and Monty Williams for San Antonio, and Derek Fisher and Nick Van Exel for Los Angeles.

The first fight came with 4:46 remaining and resulted in the ejections of Perdue and Fisher, who tangled and exchanged pushes after Kobe Bryant's dunk shot. Van Exel and Williams were ejected for fighting 44 seconds late after a missed 3-point shot by Van Exel.

San Antonio, which played without injured David Robinson, was led by Tim Duncan with 26 points and 16 rebounds. The Spurs shot a season-low 31.0 percent from the field (26-for-84).

Suns 105, Warriors 97: In Oakland, California, George McCloud scored 23 points and the Suns won their season-high ninth straight.

Antonio McDyess added 22 points and Cliff Robinson had 21 for the Suns, who rallied from 16 points down early to sweep the four-game season series with the Warriors. Jason Kidd just missed a 19th career triple double, finishing with 16 points, 10 assists and nine rebounds.

Golden State, which has lost its last eight meetings with

Phoenix, got 28 points from Jason Caffey, a career high. He also had 12 rebounds. Tony Delk added 21 points and Jim Jackson had 20.

Timberwolves 107, Clippers 88: In Los Angeles, Kevin Garnett scored 23 points and Anthony Peeler added 21 as Minnesota got its fifth straight victory and 10th in the last 13 games.

The Clippers drew within three after scoring the first seven points of the fourth quarter, but lost for the eighth consecutive game despite 23 points and a career-high 17 rebounds from Lamond Murray.

Stephon Marbury and Sam Mitchell added 14 points each and Cherokee Parks 10 as the Wolves had all five starters in double figures.

The Wolves, who've already clinched their second straight playoff berth, are assured of finishing with a .500 record for the first time since joining the NBA in 1989.

Sri Lankan star sprinter to sue officials

COLOMBO (AFP) — Sri Lanka's banned sprinter and Asia's fastest woman, Susanthika Jayasinghe, is planning legal action following a failed drug test, her husband said Tuesday.

Jayasinghe, 20, will file action against the Amateur Athletic Association (AAA) to lift an indefinite suspension imposed last week after a second positive test for banned steroids, Dhammika Nanda Kumara said.

"Susanthika has been asked to explain the test results to a panel appointed by the AAA on the 19th," Kumara told AFP. "We are not satisfied with the composition of the panel and we are taking legal action to clear her name."

But Jayasinghe would appear before the panel, even though she had little faith in the officials, most of whom she has accused of helping a top official she alleges sexually abused her, Kumara said.

Jayasinghe told a news conference shortly after the results of her first urine sample tested positive for Nandrolone, a performance enhancing drug, that there was a conspiracy by local officials to push her out of sports.

Kumara said a protest was lodged when the samples were taken last month during random off-season testing for athletes hoping to compete at the 2000 Sydney Olympics.

While giving her urine samples in two bottles marked "A" and "B", Jayasinghe immediately wrote to the chief sports ministry doctor and AAA officials alleging the samples were not sealed and could be tampered with.

However, the Australian laboratory that carried out the tests reported receiving the urine samples in properly sealed containers.

"If the lab got the samples with the correct seals and I did not see them, that means

someone else later sealed the samples after introducing something," Jayasinghe said last week.

The International Amateur Athletic Federation (IAAF) told the local AAA that Jayasinghe's second urine "B" sample was also found to contain traces of Nandrolone.

The IAAF rejected an earlier explanation by the 20-year-old athlete after her first sample tested positive last month.

"Her explanation was not accepted by the IAAF and we have therefore decided to temporarily suspend her," Sri Lanka's AAA Secretary Rohan Amarasinghe said Friday.

The duration of the ban has not yet been decided, officials said, adding that it could be up to four years and would almost certainly shatter Sri Lanka's hopes of winning a medal at the Sydney games.

The last time Sri Lanka won a medal at the Olympics

was in 1948, when Duncan White won silver in the 400m hurdles.

Jayasinghe is the only Sri Lankan to win a medal at a world event since then, as runner up at last year's world championships in Athens.

Susanthika's husband accused the AA of trying to discredit her.

"In other countries the officials try to protect and help their athletes, here it is the other way round," he said.

He said Jayasinghe would be unable to go to China for a commercial "world's fastest woman" race next month because of the ban.

Jayasinghe is the best athlete to come out of South Asia and favourite for a gold medal at this year's Asian Games.

She was among five potential Sri Lankan Olympic athletes given a drugs test last month. The other four tested negative.

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For more information, please call Jordan River Designs:
461-3081 Jordan River Designs Showroom,
First Circle, Jabel Amman, Rainbow Street.

The U.S. Peace Corps in Jordan is seeking suitably qualified candidates for the long-term contractual position of Arabic Language Coordinator.

Duties and Responsibilities:

- Develops Arabic language learning materials and training courses for adult foreigners.
- Assists in the recruitment of Jordanian Arabic language teachers and supervises their teaching of language in a total immersion village based format and through periodic centre-based language training courses.
- Provides lead in structuring, implementing and managing an intensive 12 week introductory Arabic language and cultural training program.
- Creates and applies more advanced materials for supplementary independent language acquisition to cover a two year period.
- Evaluates and assesses language learning progress and final proficiency level attained by learners; monitors and evaluates teaching proficiency demonstrated by language teachers.
- Establishes and fosters ongoing contact with Jordan based language teaching institutions and develops a long-term language materials and teaching programme for Peace Corps Volunteers.

Required:

- Degree in language education and actual experience or strong interest in curriculum development.
- A minimum of three years of language teaching experience (any language) using communicative methods.
- Total fluency in written and spoken Arabic and English.
- Supervisory teaching experience preferred.
- Willingness to work for extended periods outside Amman (e.g. Irbid, Karak).

This is a mid-level technical staff position of a long-term contractual nature.

Interested candidates should submit a curriculum vitae and cover letter no later than April 25, 1998 to:

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Baghdad, Beirut working to restore ties — official

BAGHDAD (AFP) — Iraq and Lebanon could soon restore diplomatic relations which were broken off in 1994, the leader of a Lebanese delegation of manufacturers said here Tuesday.

"As soon as we return to Beirut, the Lebanese delegation will work towards this end," Jacques Sarraf, president of Lebanon's manufacturers' association, told a press conference.

"The moves already under way point to the reestablishment [soon] of diplomatic relations," Mr. Sarraf told a press conference.

He said that Iraq's

ambassador to Amman, Nuri Al Weiss, was currently in Beirut to inspect the Iraqi embassy. His Lebanese counterpart in the Jordanian capital visited Baghdad last year.

Lebanon broke off diplomatic relations with Iraq in 1994 following the assassination of an Iraqi opposition figure in Beirut.

Mr. Sarraf's delegation met Iraqi Industry Minister Adnan Abdul Majid on Monday for talks on boosting trade between the two countries, particularly contracts under the U.N. "oil-for-food" accord.

The accord allows Iraq, which has been under a

U.N. embargo since it invaded Kuwait in 1990, to sell limited quantities of crude to finance imports of humanitarian goods.

Mr. Sarraf also visited Baghdad last year at the start of a normalisation of relations between Iraq and Syria, which is the main power-broker in Lebanon.

Before the break in relations between Iraq and Lebanon, more than 60 per cent of goods transiting the port of Beirut were headed for Baghdad, according to Lebanon's chamber of commerce and industry.

Iraq informs U.N. it rejects U.K. plans for 'oil-for-food' forum

BAGHDAD (AFP) — The Iraqi government has informed the United Nations of its rejection of British plans to host an international conference on the distribution of humanitarian supplies in Iraq.

The official news agency INA said Iraq's ambassador to the U.N., Nizar Hamdoun, informed Secretary-General Kofi Annan that Baghdad "officially protests and totally rejects" the holding of such a conference.

"The British initiative amounts to flagrant interference in the internal affairs of Iraq," he told Mr. Annan.

The move came after the Iraqi parliament on Saturday charged that the British plan was aimed at prolonging the U.N. embargo which has been in force since Iraq's 1990 invasion of Kuwait.

"The British proposal reveals the hypocrisy and hostility of the British government toward the Iraqi people," the parliament

said.

British Foreign Secretary Robin Cook called in March for an international conference to study ways to allocate increased humanitarian aid to Iraq and to evaluate the needs of the Iraqi population.

The Security Council in February raised the amount of oil which Baghdad is authorised to sell every six months to purchase humanitarian supplies from two billion dollars to \$5.2 billion.

Police break up rally in support of embattled Tehran mayor

TEHRAN (AFP) — Police broke up a student demonstration Tuesday in support of Tehran's embattled mayor as Iran's conservative-led parliament held a rare closed-door session to discuss the moderate mayor's arrest on corruption charges.

A group of students gathered inside the campus planning to march to the interior ministry, where an exhibition has been set up in defence of the mayor, but were prevented by the forces from leaving the university.

They have targeted Mr. Karbaschi's two main backers — Mr. Nouri and Culture Minister Atollah Mohajerani — attacking them for their aggressive defence of the mayor at the expense of the judiciary.

Mr. Nouri, who has spearheaded a campaign to defend the mayor, will be summoned to parliament on Wednesday for a public hearing, after demands from a hardline MP, Ahmad Rasuli-Nejad, that he explain his conduct with respect to the affair.

Parliament met Tuesday to discuss Mr. Karbaschi's arrest but details were not immediately available from the unusual closed-door session.

Mr. Nouri, a moderate cleric, has angered the powerful conservative establishment with his attacks on the judiciary, prompting charges he was abusing his power base to protect a friend.

President Khatami himself has kept silent on the issue, but is reported to be active behind the scenes to secure the mayor's release.

The Tehran Times said the heads of the three branches of the government held new "lengthy" talks late Sunday with supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, who is the only one with the power to overrule the court.

President Khatami "strongly" pleaded for the mayor's release, but Chief Justice Ayatollah Mohammad Yazdi "opposed it on the grounds that Mr. Karbaschi's appeal had already been turned down by a higher court," the newspaper said.

The students had shown up despite appeals from President Khatami's cabinet not to hold the rally.

"Our society needs calm and restraint more than anything," the cabinet said in a statement Sunday intended to defuse the tension prompted by the arrest of Mr. Karbaschi, a prominent supporter of the moderate president during his election campaign last year.

A large contingent of police, plain-clothed secret agents and special anti-riot forces of the Revolutionary Guards were stationed in front of the university campus since the morning to prevent any gatherings.

Additional forces were seen

arriving during the day in several buses. The situation was tense, but there were no clashes.

Reformists supporting President Khatami have rallied behind the mayor, describing the charges of embezzlement and mismanagement pressed by the conservative judiciary as politically motivated and demanding his immediate release.

Before the cabinet's appeal for restraint, Interior Minister Abdollah Nouri, a leading supporter of the mayor, had reportedly authorised Tuesday's protest against the conservatives' agenda, including Mr. Karbaschi's arrest.

The left-wing Salam newspaper, which is close to radical students in universities, warned Tuesday that "self-restraint has a limit."

"If the present trend continues, people have a right to voice their support for their government of choice in appropriate ways," it said.

The conservatives have called for a thorough investigation of the scandal, insisting that Mr. Karbaschi remain in custody until his trial, reported

Islamists call on U.K. to maintain asylum for Egyptian opposition

CAIRO (AFP) — Egyptian Islamists called on Britain to reject extradition requests by Cairo for Muslim militants who hope to transform their country into an Islamic state, according to a statement received here Tuesday.

"Don't repudiate the political asylum granted to opponents of the Egyptian government," the Islamic Observatory urged British Prime Minister Tony Blair in a letter.

Mr. Blair is expected to visit Egypt Friday as part of his first tour of the Middle East.

According to the Egyptian government's demands will turn Britain into "the graveyard of human rights," the statement said.

The letter also demands that Mr. Blair "commit himself to not handing over anyone living on your territory who has not violated British law."

"We want you to insist that Britain is a country that respects human rights and international laws and conventions covering those who seek political asylum," it said.

"Don't lend your ear to Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak," the letter urged.

"Those who obtained asylum in your country respect it. All who entered your country securely can't betray you because that would be contrary to Islam."

The statement also called for "jailed political opponents to be released" and said that prisoners in Egypt are "mistreated."

Egypt has several times accused Britain of serving as a haven for Muslim militants, who launched a violent campaign against the government in 1992.

Mr. Levy said that since the beginning of 1997, 60 new families have joined the 590 families already living in the valley which borders Jordan.

The Peace Now group which monitors settlement activity, estimated that the population in all the settlements in the West Bank and Gaza grew by nine per cent in 1997.



IN PROTEST OF CHILD LABOUR: About 5,000 children participate in a march protesting child labour Tuesday in Lahore. The Global March Against Child Labour which set off from Manila next Friday reached on Monday in Pakistan where millions of children work in sweatshops, steaming brick kilns and as bonded labourers paying off family debts (AP Photo)

Palestinian collaborator sues Israel for injuries

TEL AVIV (AFP) — A Palestinian who claims he was tortured and shot by fellow Arabs because he worked for the Israeli police has sued the Jewish state for damages, his lawyer said Tuesday.

Prosecutors order probe into death linked to PNA officers

RAMALLAH (AP) — Palestinian prosecutors said Tuesday they have ordered an investigation of the death of a Palestinian man whose bullet-riddled body was found less than an hour after he was summoned to Palestinian intelligence headquarters.

Mohammad Angawi, a 37-year-old contractor from the West Bank village of Beit Seera, had been questioned in the past about allegations that he collaborated with Israel.

On April 6, Angawi was summoned to the headquarters of Palestinian intelligence in the West Bank town of Ramallah.

According to the Palestinian Human Rights Monitoring Group, Angawi called a friend on his mobile phone at 1:20 p.m. that day to say that he was en route to the intelligence office and about 10 minutes away. Angawi's body, riddled with nine bullets, was found 25 minutes later in a field about 2.5 kilometres away, said the director of the group, Bassem Eid.

Angawi's car was found parked outside the intelligence office.

Mr. Eid said that although he lacked direct proof, he believed Angawi was killed by people in the intelligence office run by Col. Tewfik Tirawi who in the past has come under suspicion of ordering the killings of Palestinians believed to have sold land to Jews.

Col. Tirawi could not immediately be reached for comment Tuesday.

The deputy attorney general, Walid Adali, said the Ramallah prosecutor's office has been ordered to investigate the death.

The Palestinian National Authority has engaged in systematic human rights violations since it was formed in May 1994, according to Israeli, Palestinian and international human rights groups.

Russia denies Israeli charges over Iran missile know-how

MOSCOW (AFP) — Russia on Tuesday firmly rejected Israeli accusations that Moscow has failed to halt missile technology transfers to Iran, an issue which continues to sour relations with Tel Aviv.

Foreign ministry spokesman Valery Nesterushkin said allegations made by Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu to the Russian daily Izvestia had no basis in fact.

Mr. Netanyahu told Tuesday's edition of the paper that he had urged Moscow "stop such activities" and that he had "issued certain instructions which we hope will be followed by practical deeds."

"We were assured that the Russian leadership is doing its utmost to prevent the leakage of rocket technologies to Iran. I hope the words will be backed by concrete steps," Mr. Netanyahu said.

But Mr. Nesterushkin said Tuesday the complaints were wide of the mark. "There is no cooperation whatsoever in the area of development of any technology which has anything to do with [the transfer of] missile technology to Iran."

"The appropriate bodies in Russia have tried to put a brake on all incidents of smuggling these technologies to Iran," he said.

The Federal Security Service had recently intervened to prevent the export of specialist steels to Iran which could have been used to manufacture ballistic missiles, he added.

The Russian authorities were taking steps to tighten export controls on dual use technologies, Mr. Nesterushkin said.

Hume: Majority will back Irish peace deal

BELFAST (R) — Irish Nationalist leader John Hume on Tuesday said he was convinced the vast majority of Protestants and Catholics in Northern Ireland would back an historic peace accord.

But a splinter group of Republican gunmen issued a chilling warning it would fight on against "British forces and those who target the Nationalist working class."

Mr. Hume, leader of the Social, Democratic and Labour Party (SDLP), was one of the main architects of last Friday's accord which maintained Northern Ireland's links with Britain but built cross-border bridges with the Irish Republic.

"I have no doubt from my experience of recent times that it is the will of the vast majority of our people in both sections of our community to have lasting stability," he told Belfast's Irish News.

The deal, hammered out in 22 months of tortuous negotiations, is being put to referendums on both sides of the Irish border on May 22.

The main guerrilla groups on either side of the sectarian divide have declared cease-fires in the conflict that has claimed 3,200 lives in the past 30 years.

But splinter groups have kept up their campaigns, with police warning this could escalate in the lead-up to the referendums.

Ireland to give the rest of the world a signal that they are serious about a new start than by working to ensure that parades don't dominate their lives and the television screens and the international press in the way they have for the past three years," Alastair Graham said.

The "Northern Ireland peace settlement has won backing from Pope John Paul II to U.S. President Bill Clinton.

President Clinton has offered to visit Northern Ireland before the referendums but left the decision up to the prime ministers of Britain and Ireland and the parties involved in the deal.

"I don't want to do something to undermine the chances of success. I'm not a handicapper. I want to be encouraging. I want to be encouraging it," the president said after meeting talks with Chairman George Mitchell, a former U.S. senator.

The deal could provide an economic bonanza for Northern Ireland, with the United States expected to provide up to \$100 billion in investment. One of the first peace dividends could be the building of a cross-community university on the ironically named "peace line" which divides Belfast's Protestants and Catholics. The \$100 million campus, to be constructed at the site of a past flashpoint, won warm support from both Unionists and Nationalists.

Light fingers relieve blind singer of valuables

BOLOGNA (AFP) — Blind Italian singer Andrea Bocelli had his wallet and passport stolen as he gave a concert in a Rome church, forcing him to delay a tour in the United States. The performer, whose album "Romanza" has been a worldwide hit, was supposed to set off Monday for Los Angeles to record a song with Natalie Cole for the Warner Bros. animated film "Quest For Camelot."



Something to make your four-legged friend even sweeter — ice cream

MUELHEIM (AFP) — For the dog who has everything, there is now something else to keep your favourite pooch pampered: a special ice cream for dogs. Available in either chocolate or vanilla flavour, Pfiffi Meistereis comes in the shape of a dog's head and is being launched in the Tengelmann chain of shops in Berlin. The idea for the canine ice cream came to its inventor, Henry Wiczorek, when he saw dog owners letting their four-legged friends take surreptitious licks of their own ice creams under the table. With this in mind, Wiczorek created an ice cream for dogs with advice from veterinarians, reducing the sugar content to a level more suited to a dog's diet — though humans can eat the ice cream too.

Swede launches vodka meatballs

STOCKHOLM (AFP) — A Swedish woman living in the United States has launched vodka-flavoured meatballs, mixing two very Swedish concepts into a singular taste sensation, according to press reports.

Ulla Nylin-Reinelt, who has lived in the United States for more than 20 years, launched vodka cheese: a few years back. On the heels of the success of the Swedish vodka Absolut, U.S. imports of vodka cheese now total some 20 tonnes every other month. Nylin-Reinelt has now decided to try her hand at meatballs. Flavoured with either black currants and vodka or red pepper and vodka, the cocktail meatballs, are made from her own recipe. Nylin-Reinelt also has plans to develop vodka pralines.

Philadelphia police on lookout for doorknob thief

PHILADELPHIA (R) — Police said they were trying to catch an unusually discriminating thief who has been swiping antique doorknobs from the front doors of homes in two of Philadelphia's older neighbourhoods. Since March 1, 15 incidents of disappearing doorknobs and doorbells have been reported in the Spruce Hill and Cedar Park sections of West Philadelphia, where many homes were built in the 19th century. Police believed the thefts were the work of a single thief who has been selling the doorknobs on a bustling black-market for antique hardware. Experts in antique home fixtures believe a doorknob thief would probably earn no more than \$5 or \$10 per item by selling to a middleman, who in turn would pass them on to out-of-town dealers at a much higher price. By the time the doorknobs reached the retail level, the items probably would fetch up to \$70 a piece.

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King receives call from...
WASHINGTON (AFP) — U.S. President Clinton on Tuesday received a telephone call from King Hussein of Jordan for his role in the peace process. Clinton said he was pleased to hear from the Jordanian king and that he would return the call. Clinton's spokesman Joe Lockhart said. The call lasted about 10 minutes and followed a meeting between Clinton and King Hussein on Monday. Details were given on what the two leaders discussed during the peace process.

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King names Princess Sumaya's newborn

AMMAN (R) — His Majesty King Hussein on Tuesday named the baby girl born last month to Her Royal Highness Princess Sumaya Bint Al Hassan and Prince Faisal bin Hussein, director general of Jordan Television and a special representative of the King, as Princess Sumaya Bint Al Hassan. The ceremony was held at the Royal Palace in Amman. The King's personal representative, Royal Highness Prince Faisal bin Hussein, said the baby, Sukaina, was born healthy and weighed 3.5 kilograms.

Israeli soldiers mowed in Lebanon

BEIRUT (AFP) — Israeli soldiers on patrol in Lebanon on Tuesday mowed down a group of guerrillas in a village. Lebanese security forces said. Hizbollah guerrillas in Lebanon on Tuesday mowed down a group of guerrillas in a village. Lebanese security forces said. Hizbollah guerrillas in Lebanon on Tuesday mowed down a group of guerrillas in a village. Lebanese security forces said.

allows Reuters in Gaza

TEL AVIV (R) — The Gaza National Authority on Tuesday allowed Reuters to open an office in Gaza. The move was seen as a sign of confidence in the press. Reuters said it would open an office in Gaza to report on the situation in the territory. The move was seen as a sign of confidence in the press. Reuters said it would open an office in Gaza to report on the situation in the territory. The move was seen as a sign of confidence in the press.

Iranian aid to Baghdad

TEHRAN (AFP) — A plane filled with food and medical aid arrived in Baghdad on Tuesday. The aid was sent by Iran to help the Iraqi people. The plane was loaded with food, medicine, and other supplies. The aid was sent by Iran to help the Iraqi people. The plane was loaded with food, medicine, and other supplies. The aid was sent by Iran to help the Iraqi people.

hopes to open in Khartoum

INTERNATIONAL MONETARY FUND (IMF) officials on Tuesday hoped to open an office in Khartoum, Sudan. The IMF is a major international financial institution. The IMF is a major international financial institution. The IMF is a major international financial institution. The IMF is a major international financial institution.

Mr. Galloway...
Mr. Galloway said the Mubarak regime was helping Iraqi chemical weapons. He said the Mubarak regime was helping Iraqi chemical weapons. He said the Mubarak regime was helping Iraqi chemical weapons. He said the Mubarak regime was helping Iraqi chemical weapons.